Ely
WEEKLY NEWS

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Roswell Pits owner awaits ruling over legal challenge

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KINGS AND PRINCE BEAT TOUGH TIMES

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Tills ring out for bright Christmas

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

THE Christmas spirit is filling the streets of Ely – and, it appears, local traders' tills.

The economic storm has taken its toll on the region throughout 2009, and most businesses agree this year has been a tough one for the city.

Stores have closed down and company bosses have called it a day, leaving dozens of premises across East Cambridgeshire vacant.

But as the countdown to Christmas begins, the area's future is looking a little brighter, with shopkeepers in Ely reporting bumper sales and many predicting a successful yuletide season.

Some even claim the current boom in trade is compensating for the economic troubles they have faced during the year.

Emily Barber, manager of Ely's Dorothy Perkins store on Market Place, said: "There is no doubt about it, sales are improving as the Christmas spirit kicks in.

"People seem to be treating themselves and the people they are buying for, which is obviously having a knock-on effect in helping us.

"2009 has been a tough year but things are certainly looking up."

Peter Marsh, who runs Three Cups Jewellery, just off Fore Hill, said: "We are doing well and sales are slightly up on last December, which is surprising.

■ Turn to Page 3

It'll soon be Christmas: 3-year-old Abigail Baker was among those joining in the festive fun at Viva Arts and Community's charity shop in Soham on Sunday. As well as seasonal refreshments and Christmas activities, children could also visit Santa in his grotto to deliver any last minute wishlists. See full story – Page 2.

Picture: Richard Patterson 616772.

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Pits owner's challenge awaits Supreme ruling

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

A LEGAL battle centred on Ely's Roswell Pits has been put on hold, the *Weekly News* can reveal.

The owner of the pits, Jeremy Tyrrell, had challenged the pits' designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the High Court.

As reported in the *Weekly News*, English Nature earlier this year designated the Ely Pits and Meadows site an SSSI because of its geological importance as a site of reptile fossils.

They are also said to be a breeding habitat for rare birds, including the bittern. A sole booming male bittern, which on its own represents 3.6 per cent of Britain's entire breeding bittern population, has been heard on the site in recent years.

As a result, the SSSI was enforced, forever protecting the land from development and disturbance.

However, Mr Tyrrell, who described the SSSI as "over the top" at the time, hoped to have the designation quashed by bringing a full challenge to the decision at London's High Court.

But the matter has now been put on hold.

Mr Tyrrell is now waiting to hear the outcome of a different case, currently under consideration by the highest court in the land, the Supreme Court.

The Local Campaigners for the Protection of Rural Ely, which has fought plans for a marina on the site, were "delighted" by the news.

Liz Hunter, vice-chair of the group, said: "We're delighted that the High Court has summarily dismissed three out of four of Mr Tyrrell's complaints.

"We are optimistic the final grounds for the challenge will be rejected in due course."

The judge ruled that the first "fundamental" grounds for a challenge, that English Nature failed to carry out an environmental assessment prior to notification, should be stayed until the resolution of another case that raises the question of whether there is a requirement for such an assessment.

That case is currently being considered by the Supreme Court.

The judge said the final outcome of that case will determine whether Mr Tyrrell can proceed with his case.

He ruled that their other grounds of challenge, including a claim that English Nature misdirected itself as to the existence of breeding bitterns, were "not reasonably arguable".

East Cambridgeshire District Council is currently in the middle of another legal argument with Mr Tyrrell after he failed to remove unauthorised building work from the pits.

The businessman has been served with a court summons for defying an enforcement notice issued last year and could be fined up to £20,000 for failing to remove cabling, concrete slabs and hardcore from the site.

As reported in the *Weekly News* last week, he has now submitted plans to ECDC for new disabled fishing facilities to be built at the pits.

That decision has not yet been made but will not interfere with the court action, it was confirmed.

Family time: Abigail Baker, 3, with brother Jayden, 1, and grandmother Ruth Ginn at the Viva charity shop festive fun day. Picture: Richard Patterson 617771.

Charity serves up festive treats for all

FESTIVE spirits were high at the Soham-based Viva Arts and Community Group on Saturday.

Everything from a Santa's grotto to mince pies brought Christmas cheer to the charity's centre on Churchgate Street.

Families joined staff for a day of special yuletide activities, including an exhibition by the charity's art group, sales of Christmas decorations and seasonal refreshments.

Children were also able to visit Santa in his grotto and for those who find wrapping Christmas presents a chore, a team of volunteers were on hand to do it in return for a small donation.

A spokesman for the charity said: "A number of customers in our charity shop asked if we would wrap their gifts so we decided to offer the service to everyone for the day.

"Everything went brilliantly and we were pleased with the turn-out.

"Santa's grotto went down particularly well with all the children."

For more information about Viva, visit *www.viva-group.org.uk*

Perfect Christmas present for £1m TCT appeal

THANKS a million!

Christmas has come early for a £1 million Teenage Cancer Trust (TCT) appeal – launched by our sister publication, the *Cambridge News* – with the news that it has now hit its target.

The ambitious bid to raise the seven-figure sum kicked off on November 7, 2007. Since then, an army of fundraisers have been taking part in, and supporting, all sorts of events to raise the cash.

Colin Grant, group editor-in chief of Cambridge Newspapers and a trustee of the company's Press Relief charity, which has also backed the appeal, said: "When the *Cambridge News* launched the appeal two years ago it was the most ambitious fundraising campaign we had undertaken.

"Since then, the response from readers and the community at large has been overwhelming.

"It is money that is vital to the building of the specialist unit for youngsters suffering from cancer in our region and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed.

"You can look back with pride that you have all played your part in providing this marvellous Christmas present for the Teenage Cancer Trust."

Helen Bearfield-Smith, the TCT's regional fundraiser, said: "We are delighted to hit the £1 million mark for our appeal and are extremely grateful to everyone who has shown support since we launched.

"It has been amazing to see so many corners of the community getting involved in fundraising – from businesses to youth groups, schools and colleges to sports teams and social clubs.

"We have also received amazing support from the patients who need the unit, their families and friends and also, sadly, bereaved families who understand more than most why this unit is so vital."

Work on the new unit at Addenbrooke's Hospital started this month. It is due to open in December 2010 and will treat patients aged 13 to 24 from across East Anglia and beyond.

Delighted: a jubilant Helen Bearfield-Smith celebrates news that the appeal has hit its £1m target. Picture: Dave Harwood 617267.

Get last minute gifts at markets

TWO special Christmas markets will bring an abundance of festive food and gift ideas to Ely.

The markets will be held next Wednesday and Thursday and will feature seasonal music and entertainment, as well as a wide range of stalls from the farmers', craft and collectables, and general markets that run throughout the year.

Tracey Harding, the district council's team leader for tourism and town centre services, said: "We will have stalls selling everything from your humble Brussels sprouts to exotic spices that can add a little something different to Christmas lunch.

"So if you have a last minute gift to get this year head down to Ely Markets – you never know the bargain you might find as you enjoy the best of seasonal music and the festive atmosphere."

Soap star guest at fundraising party

EASTENDERS actress Scarlett Johnson is set to visit Ely this weekend.

Scarlett, 24, who played teenage drama queen Vicki Fowler in the BBC1 soap, will be the special guest at a major fundraising event at The Maltings.

A big Christmas party will be held at the building, on Waterside, on Saturday to raise money for East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH).

As well as a sit-down meal and disco, a bumper raffle is on the cards, with many staff and community leaders attending.

Scarlett, who appeared in the 2008 film *Adulthood*, will be joining in with the fundraising efforts.

She is expected to arrive at The Maltings at around 7pm.

Strange lights in the night sky

WAS it a bird? Was it a plane? Or was it a UFO?

A man from Ely's Beresford Road contacted the *Weekly News* this week claiming he had seen a UFO in the skies.

The man, who did not want to be named, also claimed a few other people witnessed it, as they were in the street at the time.

He said: "There was no way it was a plane or laser lights like so many people say they are. I am confident this was a UFO.

"It moved really slowly and there was one big orange glow.

"When I focused on it, I could see other smaller, orange lights coming from beneath it.

"It then just disappeared before my very eyes."

If you have seen something strange in the skies recently, contact the *Weekly News* on (01353) 667916.

Pothole problems spark plea for urgent repairs

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

POTHOLES and damaged surfaces along one of Ely's most well-used streets are putting people's safety at risk.

That is the message from residents and councillors who are calling for action over the state of the Back Hill.

With hundreds of cars using the stretch from the Railway Station into the city centre each day, Cambridgeshire County Council's Highways are being urged to immediately improve the key route.

But cyclists and pedestrians are the ones most at risk, it has been suggested.

Keen cyclist, Cllr Jeremy Friend-Smith, who represents Ely South ward, said: "Every time I come up Back Hill on my bike there are noticeable problems.

"So much of the road's surface is worn down and uneven, it is only a matter of time, if not already, that someone comes off their bike.

"The road is in a key part of Ely, providing a link from the train station to the city. People have been urging me to do something about it for quite some time and the county council should be carrying out the work as soon as possible."

Back Hill resident, Bryony Brown, agreed that the state of the road was "poor".

The 25-year-old said: "Everyone encourages us to be green by biking everywhere instead of driving but it makes it tricky when roads are like Back Hill.

"Going downhill is not so bad but coming up, which I do most days, is a nightmare.

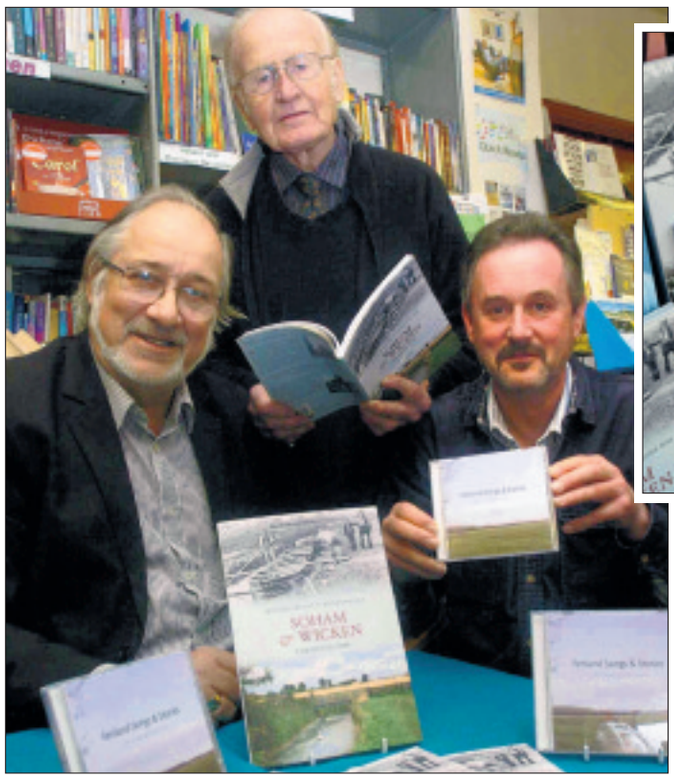
"The guttering is all cracked and the surfaces are uneven so it is quite dangerous."

Another resident, Peter Whitemark, said: "It is very busy and used at all times of the day. I have heard people moaning about the condition of the road many times.

"I very rarely cycle but when I walk up the hill there are definitely more cracks and uneven surfaces than there are decent parts."

A county council spokesman said work which was to start on Back Hill in November will now begin in the New Year.

He said: "Because of the high levels of traffic which will use Back Hill in the run up to Christmas a decision has been taken to put the work back until the beginning of the New Year after the festive rush."



Passionate about the Fens: Michael Rouse, Anthony Day and John Crowe show off the new book and CD, which were launched last weekend.

Pictures: Richard Patterson 616764/66.

Looking back in Fenland past

FANS of the Fens are in for a treat thanks to a group of local historians and writers.

A new book focusing on Soham and Wicken has been published and is now on sale.

***Soham & Wicken Through Time* is the work of local writer Mike Rouse and artist and historian Anthony Day.**

Focusing on how the area has changed over the years, the book uses a series of before and after pictures to illustrate the developments.

Mr Rouse, who lives in Ely and is a district councillor for Ely North, said: "It is exciting that the book is now on sale.

"We have worked hard to make it what it is today and for those who love the character of the Fens, they should love the book too."

A new CD, titled *Fenland Songs and Stories*, is also available.

Created by Mr Rouse and local songwriter John Crowe, the CD is a mixture of readings and songs focusing on the Ely area.

Both are available from all good book shops.

Man injured in crash on bypass

MAN was injured in a three-vehicle crash on the A142 Soham Bypass.

The driver of a black BMW was involved in the incident near the Down Field roundabout just after 6am on Tuesday.

He was taken by ambulance to Addenbrooke's Hospital and his injuries were not life-threatening.

Another casualty was treated at the scene for minor injuries.

Police said a white van involved in the incident carried on in the direction of Ely.

A 32-tonne lorry left the road and ended up in a field.

Rush hour traffic in both directions suffered long delays.

Police and Highways Agency officials were called and they closed the road between Military Road and East Fen Drove.

Traffic was diverted off the bypass and through Soham while the lorry was recovered. The road was reopened at 9.40am.

Police have appealed for witnesses or anyone with information on the white van to contact them on 0345 4564564.

Christmas set to usher in better year for traders

■ From Page 1

"The way things are looking, it will definitely help towards being a better year next year, compared with the lack of interest there has been throughout 2009.

"The credit crunch has certainly taken its toll on businesses over the last year and this Christmas pick-up is what many of us need."

A spokeswoman for Boots added: "The recession certainly does not seem to be holding customers back this Christmas.

"Sales are high and certain items are flying off the shelves. We are confident things are looking up for 2010 and that this festive season will be a fruitful one."

Menswear shop James Cox, on High Street, has also noticed a Christmas boom. A member of staff said: "Sales are very high and people do seem to be spending more.

"I do think things are starting to pick up now."

Bent & Cornwell Butchers, in the Market Place has even received orders for more than 1,000 turkeys.

The Ely Chamber of Commerce is also confident that 2010 is set to be more prosperous for the region's traders.

Tammy Driver, chamber chairman, said: "It would seem that despite a really tough year for many businesses, money is still being spent, more so it seems in the run up to Christmas.

"Whether it is because people are throwing caution to the wind, in that they have struggled a bit more and just want to treat themselves, or whether there is a feeling that things are genuinely getting better and everyone is far more positive about the future.

"I am always in Ely shopping and have noticed in the last few weeks that it is getting busier and busier, with lots of carrier bags and takeaway coffees in hands.

"We have had some really great news recently about some of the empty shop spaces in Ely being filled and I, like many others are looking forward to other businesses following this trend, and of course having a wander round when they actually open!

"I have also found, from my own business and from conversations with our chamber members, that whilst they have found the last few months challenging, orders are starting to come in and money is being spent, some like us, have actually been recruiting staff.

"I don't think we are out of this yet and no doubt it will be tough for many in the first few months of 2010, however the general feeling is that it is not all doom and gloom, there is light at the end of the tunnel."

■ **Clothing giant on way to city store – Page 11.**

Building works bid

A PROPERTY on Ely's West Fen Road could be in line for a revamp.
Mrs A. Pemberton wants to carry out a range of internal and external alterations, including a new replacement roof on the building's utility room.
Plans have been submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council.
To comment on the proposals, visit *www.eastcambs.gov.uk*

Couple's cattery plan

A NEW boarding cattery could be built in Isleham.
Mr and Mrs G. Smith, of Waterside, want to build the new facilities at their property.
Plans have been submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council and include building a single storey timber building.
To comment on the proposals, visit *www.eastcambs.gov.uk*

Locked bike stolen

POLICE are appealing for information after a bicycle was stolen from Ely's High Street.
A male was seen taking the bike, which was secured to a pillar using a cycle lock, from the scene.
The incident happened last Thursday some time between 1.30pm and 4.15pm.
Anyone with any information should call police on 0345 4564564.

Cosmetics found

A BAG of shopping has been found lying under a bench.
Ely businesswoman Barbara Curtis found the Boots bag, which has a range of cosmetics inside, left under a seat in The Cloisters over the weekend.
If you have proof that it is your shopping, visit Barbara in her Curtis Crafts kiosk in the Cloisters on Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday.

Bonfire call-out

FIREFIGHTERS were called out after a bonfire got out of control.
The incident happened in School Lane, Chittering, on Saturday.
One crew from Cottenham attended the fire, which broke out at 10.20am.
Two hose reel jets were used to extinguish the blaze and the crew returned to base at 11.25am.

Adequate report 'but council can do better'

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

EAST Cambridgeshire District Council needs to work more effectively in partnerships, according to a national report.

The authority is also being urged to encourage different communities to get along better with each other.

The report, called One Place, measures how public services are doing on issues that matter most to people.

It measures everything from paying benefits quickly to helping to reduce crime and making the district a clean place to live.

Despite the criticisms however, the district council did meet 33 of its 35 targets for the year.

The report also noted that improvements were being made for those in rural areas, those on low incomes or those at risk of losing their homes.

Overall, the authority was assessed as "performing adequately".

Cllr Fred Brown, council leader, said: "As a small council, East Cambridgeshire works hard to serve its residents and offers real value for money.

"As the report notes we have done much to help those who are the most vulnerable in our society as well as improve the community.

"While the report might describe our services as 'adequate' it is accepted by many in public service that this is an awful phrase.

"We are delivering public services at the level expected by residents but we know we can do more.

"Clearly we are in a difficult financial situation but we will continue to work hard for our communities."

The survey, also known as the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), highlights where things are going well and where improvements need to be made.

CAA is a new way of assessing local public services in England.

It examines how well councils are working together with other public bodies to meet the needs of the people they serve. It is a joint assessment made by a group of six independent watchdogs.

Public organisations assessed by CAA include the county council, the county's five district councils, the police, fire and rescue and NHS Cambridgeshire.

Gifts galore at fair

THOSE looking for last-minute Christmas gifts were in for a treat in Ely over the weekend.

Bargain-hunters descended on the city's Beet Club on Saturday and Sunday for the Ely Christmas Craft Show.

Organised by Wilburton man Bob Foster and his family, the fair enabled local artists and craftsmen to showcase and sell their work.

As well as arts and crafts galore, there was also a stall from the Raptor Owl Sanctuary.

Mr Foster said: "The fair went well although numbers were not as high as they usually are.

"I think the weather put a few people off coming and the new venue probably affected things as we used to run the show at The Maltings.

"However, things went well and as ever, local craftsmen were able to sell some of their creations."

Christmas treats: above, Maisie Leonard, 10, from Littleport, admires sculptures by Tracy Whinray on one of the stalls. Left, Simon Dudhill, from the Raptor Foundation with Aero the barn owl and Ben the European eagle owl. Pictures: Richard Patterson 616943/6.

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A bumper 14-day CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR TV GUIDE

Man hurt in 'unprovoked' street attack

A MAN suffered head injuries after he was attacked in Littleport.

Police are appealing for information after the assault in the village on Sunday, December 6.

The incident happened at around 1am in Crown Lane, close to the mini roundabout for Wisbech Road.

The 30-year-old man, who is from the village, was hit from behind and assaulted, resulting in head injuries.

The victim was taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital and has since been discharged.

DC Paul Atkinson, investigating, said: "This was an unprovoked attack and I would urge anyone with information about this assault to contact me.

"We know there were people in the area around the time and I would ask that they get in touch.

"Any information, no matter how small, could prove invaluable in determining who is responsible."

Anyone with information should contact DC Atkinson on 0345 456 4564 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Santa delivers festive family fun to museum

FUN activities brought yuletide cheer to Ely Museum over the weekend.

Children came out laden with gifts after visiting Santa in the Victorian parlour and telling him what they wanted for Christmas.

There was also a second-hand book stall, refreshments and arts and crafts sessions, at which people could make their own decorations.

Elie Hughes, museum curator, said: "Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and there were smiles all round.

"It proved to be a fun day for the whole family."

The museum, in Market Street, is open from 10.30am-4pm until Monday. It will be closed from December 22-29 and on January 1, 2010.

For more information, call (01353) 666655.

Happy customer: above left, Dominic Holland, 9, with Santa. Above, Taylor sisters Erin, 3, Ciara, 4, and Aisling, 1, with elf Verity Owen.

Picture: Richard Patterson 616767/8.

Fans get to grips with wrestling showcase

GRAPPLE fans converged on Ely last weekend as live LDN Wrestling made its debut in the city.

A dozen of the country's top stars came together for Sunday's event at The Maltings, which featured five professional bouts.

A spokeswoman for the event described it as "fantastic".

She added: "It was all brilliant fun and the crowd really got into it, jeering and shouting at the wrestlers."

More than 100 people attended the family-friendly event, which featured British Heavyweight Champion Jon "The Don" Ritchie, Lord Henry Travis and others.

For more information about the event, visit *www.LDNwrestling.com*

Crews called out to free injured motorist

A MOTORIST was trapped in a car crash on Monday.

The single-vehicle incident happened on Ely Road, between Stretham and Little Thetford, just before 3pm.

Fire crews from Ely and emergency services attended the collision and freed the person using specialist cutting equipment.

The casualty suffered minor injuries and has since been discharged from Addenbrooke's Hospital.

Thieves bolt after stealing iron gate

A WROUGHT iron gate has been stolen from a property in Stretham.

Police are appealing for information after the theft in Ely Road.

Thieves unscrewed all the bolts and removed the gate from its posts overnight on Saturday.

Anyone with any information should call police on 0345 4564564.

Ban bid to curb rowdy drinkers

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

DRUNKEN yobs look set to be banned from Ely's Jubilee Gardens.

The East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership wants an order put in place to stop people getting drunk in the city's award-winning beauty spot.

The scheme, which is now out for public consultation, follows a rise in complaints from nearby residents and businesses about alcohol-related offences and disturbances.

If introduced, the order would restrict consumption of alcohol in a public place that would create a nuisance or annoyance to the public or results in disorder.

However, the plans have received a mixed reaction from nearby residents.

Nicholas Perkins, 71, of Ship Lane, said: "Drink-related crime, noise and general nuisance in the gardens is a problem and seems to have got worse recently.

"I'm just not sure whether these orders are the right answer. They could work but I think we need more police presence around here and stronger punishments for these people to really learn."

Jubilee Terrace resident Maureen Bearsfield said: "Obviously it is great that the partnership is seeking to sort this problem and the order doesn't sound a bad idea.

"But what concerns me is what happens to those having a sociable drink in the park during the summer evenings when there are concerts and other events going on?"

A Waterside resident, who did not want to be named, said: "Jubilee Gardens is such an important part of Ely and we need to make sure it does not become a local alcoholic hang-out. I just wonder whether these plans are strong enough to do that."

The partnership's chairman, Ste Thornley, said the order would not prevent sociable drinking, such as friends and families gathering in the gardens for picnics or concerts.

Mr Thornley said: "I would like to stress that if this order is approved it will not stop anyone from drinking alcohol in the park if they are socialising with friends or having a family picnic.

"This order is to stop the consumption of alcohol when it creates the potential for disorder or to cause an annoyance.

"We want our green spaces in East Cambridgeshire to be places you can go to relax, play or simply enjoy a walk.

"They should not be ruined by a minority who are intent on causing a nuisance."

To have your say on the scheme, contact Nick Ball on (01353) 66555 or email *nick.ball@eastcambs.gov.uk*

> "This will not stop anyone from drinking alcohol in the park if they are socialising with friends. This order is to stop the consumption of alcohol when it creates the potential for disorder or to cause an annoyance.
>
> **Ste Thornley**

■ What do you think? Could the ban help rid the gardens of trouble-makers, or is there a better way to solve the issue? Have you had problems with drunken yobs there in the past? Email *editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk* or write to: Letters to the Editor, Ely Weekly News, 27 Market Place, Ely CB7 4NP

Please include your full name, address and contact details.

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If you have any feedback for us then please contact the relevant person or people listed below.

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WEEKLY NEWS LETTERS

Send your letters to: The Editor, Ely Weekly News, 27 Market Place, Ely, CB7 4NP or by email to editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

Not surprised by P.O. chaos

Sir, Regarding your article, 'Queue chaos at P.O. sparks call for action' (*Weekly News*, December 10), I hate to say 'I told you so' but . . . I told you so.

Surely no one is really surprised that the Ely Post Office can't cope with a Christmas rush? Let's be honest, they can't even cope with day-to-day business.

And what about the "improvements" that were promised when the Little Downham and other local offices were closed? When asked the question, a member of the counter staff said "We've got the numbers system". Quite how a mechanical voice saying "Cashier number three" can speed up service, or is an improvement on a human voice saying "Next please" is quite beyond me.

Have they put on extra staff? No, of course not. The only time they did that was when they got wind (thanks to the BBC) of our demonstration for the *Look East* cameras. At the time we said that the queues would get longer and that elderly people would have to stand out in the rain and cold – and that is precisely what has happened.

All our protests and campaigning failed to stop the Little Downham post office from closure, despite the fact that their decision was based on false information and a total disregard for rural communities. We said that the Ely office wouldn't be able to cope and guess what, the Ely office can't cope.

Sure, we now have an outreach service in Downham for a whole 15 hours a week, with nothing on Thursday and only 90 minutes on Friday, but that is no help if you need to post a parcel or use other services after 1.30pm on any day of the week. You are, to put it bluntly, stuffed. It also doesn't help our local Costcutter shop, which has lost business over the removal of the post office.

All in all, the post office closures, combined with Ely office's lack of meaningful improvements, have brought about the chaos that anyone with an iota of intelligence could have, and indeed had, predicted.

Emma Martin
Lawn Lane
Little Downham

We deserve better facilities

Sir, It was a disgrace by the Royal Mail to shut down all the small post offices in Ely, St John's Road branch being the last to shut. That post office served a large proportion of the Ely residents, all of whom now have to stand in long queues at the only remaining post office.

I have difficulties in walking and cannot physically get to the High Street post office, and since it is very rare to find a parking space nearby, I now have to take my car out and go to the Stretham post office. Thank goodness they have not shut that one as well.

The St John's branch was not only an efficient post office but also a meeting point where people used to stop and have a chat. Now after queueing, for sometimes as long as 30 minutes, all you get is very frustrated people.

The post office we need here in Ely is a large building with parking outside so that people can get at it, and with enough staff to serve what is now the whole of Ely's population. This High Street shop is an insult.

A. M. Tee
Ely

No room for more in 'the cell'

Sir, I read with interest your editorial regarding Ely Post Office. We in Littleport suffer exactly the same problem with queues. In fact, regularly, there are waits for the counter of over 30 minutes. Indeed, frequently, there is only one counter open.

I have complained to McColls, who hold the franchise, and was informed the Post Office will not give more funding. Also, there is not room for more than two staff members behind the counter at any one time. The office is like a cell in the corner of the newsagents.

With Christmas approaching, it is even worse. I actually waited to be served for over 40 minutes when one member of staff was on duty, the other had gone for lunch.

For a town the size of Littleport, I think this is totally unacceptable. Downham Market has a lovely new post office with five counters, modern digital scales etc. And they are open until 4pm on Saturdays.

Gwen Chaplin
Address supplied

What next for Roswell Pits?

Sir, Ha! I was wondering what Jeremy Tyrrell was going to come up with next for an excuse to develop the pits into a marina, and here it is (Disabled fishing bid for pits spot – *Weekly News*, December 10). If anyone speaks out against it then they are obviously anti the disabled so he can't fail . . . or can he?

He says he wants to build a "few" platforms for disabled people to fish from, a parking area, emergency access and toilets, plus some electric boats. Sounds good, until you realise that after checking the plans it looks like just a way to utilise the illegal groundworks he has undertaken and stop the council from forcing him to remove them.

The plans would, coincidently, also double for a marina, with a boarded walkway (mooring possibly) and hoists allegedly to lift disabled people in and out of the electric boats. Coincidently, these hoists also have uses in a marina situation, unless I am very much mistaken.

Does Mr Tyrrell really think that we and the council are so stupid that we cannot see through this latest farce? I would suggest that after this pathetic attempt has failed he re-submits his plans but just changes the disabled cause he is championing and claim that, by keeping and undertaking further development, he can solve global warming, eradicate poverty, drought, disease, injustice and bring peace and harmony to the world.

I don't think so.

Daniel Mennell
Ely

Seeing through a cynical plan

Sir, I am not, as yet, persuaded for or against the existing proposal for developing the pits. It is a commercial venture, and none the worse for that, but to try to sell the idea as a service to the disabled is as cynical a piece of marketing as you would wish to see.

John Clarke
Townsend
Little Downham

Protect against natural problem

Sir, In response to the global warming industry supporters who insist that human behaviour is the cause of climate change, I would refer to the most recent findings by Cambridge scientists.

Their data states that 125,000 years ago South Pole temperatures were six degrees higher than now and the global sea level was five metres higher because of changes in the planet's orbital patterns. The report added that the present warm period began about 10,000 years ago and has been relatively stable; obviously natural phenomena.

During the same week that these findings were published, it became apparent from leaked emails sent by researchers at the Climatic Research Unit that they have been massaging data in an attempt to prove that human behaviour is causing global warming, and were lobbying to discredit academics who disputed this. Fortunately, top scientist Professor Ian Plimer will have none of it and, indeed, has concluded that human behaviour has had no impact on temperatures, whilst recent warming was part of the natural cycle stretching over billions of years.

It is a dangerous policy for governments to hoodwink the public by imposing punitive energy taxes, on the pretext that they are saving the planet through making token gestures of creating non-jobs such as climate monitors, waste bin advisers, climate predictors ad infinitum. Rather than funding the insatiable global warming industry gravy train, it would have been far more responsible of government to invest in flood defence systems in vulnerable areas to protect against natural weather extremes and prevent the building of houses on flood plains.

Alan Seymour
Morley Drive
Ely

Parking issue is not going away

Sir, I am sorry to beg an audience, especially about such a trivial matter as parking, but I can see no alternative and I need your help. This letter need only be read by those who have the luxury of a drive for their car.

Imagine, unfortunately, your drive is out of action and the council has decided to paint double yellow lines outside your house. Where would you park? Who would you contact for help? Your MP? The council? The transport committee? Your local council representative?

Now pretend you become invisible, they can't see or hear you. You talk, ask, question and your words are lost in a fog of white noise. Where would you turn next – maybe trying to park on some private land, in a car park on the street side? Unfortunately, you find that the landowner loses patience, the traffic wardens and police ticket your car and the sole solution means moving the car twice a day.

Imagine the bizarre situation where the councillors discuss the awful consequences for people who bed and breakfast in Ely, who interrup their breakfast in order to move their car. Imagine the silent scream.

In general, the people of this isle are a wonderful tolerant people, raised to care for their neighbours, show respect and courtesy, help each other – until you come across a group of people who think this situation has somehow disappeared, these residents and their cars have also disappeared, and the problem no longer exists. Individuals who feel there can be no answer; it is either businesses interests or residents who count.

We all count! Business people and residents and visitors. There are answers but only if the councillors believe it so.

I am embarrassed by their complete disregard for the people in this situation, I am appalled by their lack of morals, and I am hurt and mystified by willingness to ignore our plight.

If you have any influence please ask them to engage – there are solutions.

Name and address supplied

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should arrive by noon on the Monday before publication. Full name and address must be supplied and details will be withheld only in exceptional circumstances. Letters should be no longer than 250 words and may be edited.

Please email your letters to editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

Alternatively write to: Letters to the Editor, Ely Weekly News, 27 Market Place, Ely, CB7 4NP

Confident: above, new landlords at the Prince Albert, Ian and Tracey Waldock. Below, Barbara Kenny at the new-look Kings Arms.

Pictures: Richard Patterson

King and Prince beat tough times

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

Britain's pub industry has been hit hard by the recession.

With spiralling rent charges and cheap supermarket booze on offer, thousands of premises have been forced to call it a day.

But there are two drinking holes in Ely which are bucking the gloomy nationwide trend.

The Kings Arms, on St Mary's Street, and The Prince Albert, on Silver Street, have both been injected with a new lease of life thanks to their new landlords.

Barbara Kenny, 56, has just taken over The Kings Arms and spent thousands of pounds not only revamping the place, but also getting rid of its poor reputation.

After brand-new everything, from ceiling to floor, the sparkling premises were opened to the public last week.

Mrs Kenny, who was manager of The Ship pub in Soham for four years, said: "Times are hard in the pub industry and that is clear to see across the country.

"But The Kings Arms is in such a fantastic location and has so much potential that I just had to give it a go.

"The pub is totally unrecognisable to what it was and people must get its former poor reputation out of their minds as that is no longer the case.

"Everywhere is light, airy and comfortable, creating a very relaxed atmosphere and everything from the kitchen to the bar areas has been totally gutted."

With a team of eight staff, the pub is now serving homemade, traditional lunches and snacks, as well as a wide range of ales and beverages.

Mrs Kenny also hopes to run regular live music evenings, fundraising and community events over the next few months.

She said: "I think the key to running a successful pub, especially in these tricky times, is to serve the community in which you are in.

"We have created an ideal spot for the people of East Cambridgeshire to come and we are confident it will work."

Tracey and Ian Waldock, 44 and 54, took over The Prince Albert earlier this autumn and have been overwhelmed with its success so far.

Having worked in the pub's kitchen and behind the bar for around five years, Tracey decided to take the reigns when the former landlords retired.

The pub serves a wide range of homemade traditional pub food from 11am through to 9pm, with everything prepared on site.

The couple, whose daughters Nikki and Chelsea also work there, have also adopted Help the Heroes as its charity over the next year, raising cash for Britain's armed forces.

Mr Waldock said: "We are doing so well and we have such a loyal clientele here in Ely.

"Pubs have suffered hugely in the recession but by serving good beer and food we are confident we will do well.

"We are quite a small pub but we have a heck of a lot to offer.

"The former landlords started a mini library here, which we are keeping, enabling people to bring in books and exchange them with each other, all in the name of charity.

"Ely is a fantastic city and we are pleased to be open and doing well here."

For more information on The Kings Arms, call (01353) 656 828 and for more information about The Prince Albert, call (01353) 663494.

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Family Announcements

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Birthdays

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xxxx

Family Notices
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Deaths

ALSOP. nee Watts, Amanda Rose, of West End, Haddenham, passed away suddenly in Spain on Monday, December 7th, 2009, aged 53 years. Dearly loved wife of David, loving mother of Vicki, Louise and Charlotte, a sadly missed grandmother and sister. Cremation has taken place in Spain. A memorial service at Holy Trinity Church, Haddenham, on Wednesday, December 16th, at 11.00am, followed by a committal of ashes in the parish cemetery. Family flowers only, donations if desired for Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust, Cardiac Research 9284, will be gratefully received at the service or c/o A G Carter Funeral Director, 6 Froize End, Haddenham, Cambs. CB6 3UQ.

Deaths

BARTON. Daphne Margaret, of Manor Court Road, Witchford, passed peacefully away at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, on Saturday, December 5th, 2009, aged 75 years. Loving wife of Eric, mother to Colin and Becky, nan to Michael and Matthew. Funeral service at Cambridge Crematorium, East Chapel, on Monday, December 21st, at 1.00pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired for Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust, 9179 Stroke Ward will be gratefully received at the service or c/o A G Carter Funeral Director, 6 Froize End, Haddenham, Cambs. CB6 3UQ.

FLACK. Audrey of Littleport, passed peacefully away at Papworth Hospital, on Friday, December 11th, 2009, aged 86 years. Dearly loved mum to Judith and nanny to Becca. Funeral service at St George's Church, Littleport, on Monday, December 21st, 2009, at 1.45pm, followed by committal at Cambridge City Crematorium, West Chapel. No flowers by request but donations if desired for MAGPAS may be left at the service or sent to C E Fuller & Co, 23 Hall Street, Soham, CB7 5BN. Tel: 01353 720439.

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Storage plan considered

AN agricultural storage building could be built in Fordham.

Mr P. Rampley, of Trinity Close, wants to build the new facility on land at the rear of 193 Mildenhall Road.

Plans have been submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council and a decision is expected within the next two months.

To view the plans, visit *www.eastcambs.gov.uk*

Van raided by thieves

A FORD Transit van was broken into in Little Thetford.

Items were stolen from inside the van during the break-in, which happened overnight on Wednesday, December 2.

The vehicle was parked in Cowslip Drive at the time.

Anyone with any information should call police on 0345 4564564.

Going into the garden

A PROPERTY in Ely could soon boast a new garden room.

Mr M. Davies, of Bentham Way, wants to extend the rear of his house to form a garden room.

East Cambridgeshire District Council is expected to make a decision on the proposals within the next eight weeks.

To view the plans, visit *www.eastcambs.gov.uk*

Cars out, games in

A SOHAM property could soon boast a new double garage.

Mr and Mrs P. Gordon, of Greenhills, want to build the new facility and convert their existing garage into a recreation area.

Plans have been submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council.

To comment on the proposals, visit *www.eastcambs.gov.uk*

Caravan is stolen

A CARAVAN has been stolen from a driveway in Ely.

Thieves took the caravan from Cambridge Road some time between noon on Tuesday, December 1 and 4pm on Wednesday, December 2.

Anyone who saw anything suspicious should call police on 0345 4564564.

No escape from cameras, police warn troublemakers

POLICE have released images of a drink-driver stumbling into his car to show how effective CCTV cameras are.

The cameras have helped police to make 10,000 arrests catching perverts, sex attackers and dangerous drinkers.

One incident in Ely shows a man stumbling around and shouting at a parked car. He then urinates over the car before getting behind the wheel and starting the engine.

The CCTV operator alerted police and the man was charged with drink-driving.

Officers in the Cambridge, Ely and Soham have been called nearly 30,000 times by CCTV operators since the camera system was launched in 1997.

Pc Mark Arnold said: "Last year we captured 800 pieces of footage for investigations.

Caught in the act: 1. The drunken man staggers up to his car. 2. After urinating on the vehicle, he gets in. 3. He starts the car and pulls away. 4. He is tracked through Ely by CCTV cameras. 5. Police officers catch up with the man and arrest him.

"Because we deal with so much footage, we have a detailed recording system for it.

"We don't just analyse CCTV footage, but footage from the air operations unit, traffic officers and voice recordings of 999 calls."

In another incident, the CCTV camera follows a man around Cambridge market. As the man buys fruit at a stall, he moves a bag under a woman's skirt – in the bag is a mirror.

In another recording three young men are attacked by four others, beaten to the ground and knocked unconscious. One of them is then kicked in the face once more.

Exclusive footage on *Weekly News* website, *www.elyweeklynews.co.uk,* shows the drink-driver in Ely.

Ancient cathedral trees face the axe

HISTORIC trees in the grounds of Ely Cathedral are to be given the chop.

Council chiefs have granted permission for two large old horse chestnut trees within the cathedral's vicinity to be felled.

As reported in the *Weekly News*, East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) received an application from cathedral bosses to chop down the trees.

Located near the Ely Porta, the two specimens have been assessed by professionals and found to have serious decay in old wounds and pollard points.

With crowds of King's School

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

Ely pupils and passers-by walking by the trees every day, they were deemed to be endangering public safety.

The trees, which are both hundreds of years old, will be cut down in the first week of January.

Carol Campbell, cathedral administrator, said: "It is always a great shame when we have to cut down trees, particularly any that have stood within the cathedral vicinity for hundreds of years.

"However, we do have a responsibility to keep all these areas safe, and many people, especially school children, pass by these trees every day.

"Unfortunately, following a detailed inspection we have been advised that we have no option but to have these trees felled."

Mrs Campbell added: "We plan to re-plant and replace them as soon as is practical to do so and we will be seeking advice from the experts on this.

"The cathedral will also be replacing the horse chestnut tree we had to fell adjacent to the path to the park."

The news comes just weeks after another precious tree had to be cut down on Waterside.

As a safety measure, council chiefs decided to fell the whole tree, leaving nothing but two stumps in its place.

Cathy White, senior trees officer at ECDC, said: "It is with a heavy heart that we receive applications to fell any tree in our district, especially when the specimens in question form part of the character of the area.

"However, we do have to acknowledge that public safety is very important and sadly the extent of decay in these two old chestnuts has prompted the cathedral to apply for permission to have them felled."

Waste site hunt for city's south

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

GREEN-minded residents living in the southern area of Ely could soon be using new recycling facilities.

Discussions are under way to bring a new neighbourhood recycling point, including cardboard, paper and bottle banks, to the Ely's south ward.

Both the City of Ely Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council say another recycling site is much-needed in the city, especially there.

Once a suitable site is found, the new facilities will bring Ely's total number of recycling points up to five.

Existing recycling hubs are in High Barns, Downham Road and in the car parks of Waitrose and Tesco.

City councillor Richard Hobbs, the Mayor of Ely, said: "There are not enough recycling facilities in Ely.

"We have a good door collection service but we do think there needs to be another recycling point, especially in the southern area.

"There are so many new developments in the south ward and we need another site where people can simply walk up and place their bottles, cardboard and paper.

"We will be looking to find suitable sites in the ward where one could go and are urging residents to help us with that."

Councillors had originally earmarked St John's Primary School for the new facility.

After five years of negotiations, the school now has an emergency access built behind it, and the city council had hoped the new recycling point could be built there. But the search for a site is back on as there is not enough room.

Cllr Hobbs said: "We now want to work with the district council to find somewhere else where such facilities can serve the whole of the southern area of the city."

The district council has confirmed it is also trying to find a suitable site.

Dave White, waste strategy team leader, said: "We are aware of the need for a neighbourhood recycling point in this area.

"We will be working with the city and county council in an attempt to identify a suitable alternative site."

Crews called out to tackle fire at power station

FIREFIGHTERS were called to a blaze at a power station last Tuesday.

The fire broke out at the Elean Power Station on the Elean Industrial Estate, near Ely around 1pm.

One crew from Sutton attended the blaze and used a hose reel jet to tackle the flames.

One member of staff was treated at the scene for smoke inhalation but no ambulance was required. The fire was accidentally caused by equipment.

The crew returned to base at 3.45pm.

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THE ANSWER'S YES Now what's the question?

Dreaming of a green Christmas at reserve

ECO-FRIENDLY Christmas wrapping and the importance of recycling were the main attractions at a nature reserve's festive event.

The Welney Wildfowl and Wetlands centre, near Ely, was buzzing when it held a bumper Green Christmas Fair.

Visitors were able to pick up tips on how to be more nature-friendly over the yuletide season, such as recycling all their cards, using biodegradable gift wrap and creating fancy Christmas decorations with natural materials, such as twigs and cones.

Local craftsmen were also on hand selling recyclable and eco-friendly gifts.

The reserve also held a special Children's Christmas experience, where youngsters could visit Mother Christmas to tell her what they would like from Santa.

All money raised from the events helps the reserve continue to preserve the region's wetlands and the species which inhabits them.

For more information, visit *www.wwt.org.uk*

Lunch dates for youngsters

RESIDENTS at a sheltered housing scheme in Ely have been given a special festive feast.

Local youth group, Supper Troopers, visited Sanctuary Hereward's Militia Way development to wine and dine the residents.

The troopers, all aged between 10 and 19, cooked and served them a traditional Christmas meal before entertaining them with carols, raffles and other activities.

The event was planned as part of a 12-month venture, The Lunch Project, supported by Sanctuary Hereward in partnership with The Garage Youth Project.

During the year, the youth group will have cooked for and entertained residents from six Sanctuary sheltered schemes.

The group have picked special times of the year to cook including Valentine's Day and Easter.

Family of young dad to sue over his death

THE family of a man who died after getting Legionnaire's disease at Addenbrooke's is suing the hospital for damages.

Simon Tait, 42, died on March 25 after acquiring the deadly bug as he battled leukaemia.

Traces of the disease were later found in a bathroom used by the father-of-two, from Ely, as well as three other rooms where he was treated.

Addenbrooke's has since replaced shower heads which harboured the Legionella bacteria and tightened procedures to tackle the disease.

But members of Mr Tait's family claim the hospital was negligent to assume frequent use of the showers on ward C10 would flush out the water-borne bacteria.

They say the high number of frail and vulnerable patients meant it was unlikely the showers would be used frequently – allowing water to become stagnant and Legionella to grow.

In a statement issued by solicitors Hay and Kilner, of Newcastle, Mr Tait's family said: "The risk of Legionella from shower

BY JACK GROVE

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

heads has been well recognised for many years and we feel that it was wrong to make an assumption of high usage of sanitary facilities on a ward where patients were particularly vulnerable.

"We were even more concerned to learn that further samples taken from the ward two months after the death of Simon indicated the clear presence of Legionella in the shower heads in three rooms.

"There is no criticism of the clinicians treating Simon. They must have been as devastated as the family at the death of their patient from a hospital-acquired Legionella.

"The family do not however exonerate Addenbrooke's. The system in place was a bad one which has now been recognised.

"Although Legionella is rare, hospitals up and down the country successfully manage to avoid deaths from Legionella. The matter is now being investigated by the Health and Safety Executive and the family are taking legal action.

Everything to live for: Simon Tait had been treated for leukaemia when he contracted Legionnaire's disease.

"Simon at the time of his death was a very talented and successful graphic designer who had everything to live for. It is particularly tragic that he should lose his life in this way after successfully undergoing treatment for leukaemia.

"He is greatly missed at this difficult time by his family and in particular his two young children."

Delivering a narrative verdict on Mr Tait's death, coroner David Morris said there was "no element of gross failure on the part of the hospital or its staff".

But he said the "hospital-acquired Legionella" made a "more than minimal contribution to Mr Tait's death", which was officially caused by pneumonia.

He added he was "satisfied that with the revised/improved systems now in place, every precaution has now been taken to minimise any further incidence" of the disease.

There are 300 to 400 cases of Legionnaire's disease in the UK each year.

The "Cambridge" strain of Legionella which led to Mr Tait's death is even rarer.

A spokesman for Addenbrooke's said: "We are aware that Mr Tait's family is considering legal action. At the inquest, the coroner made clear that we had taken all reasonable steps to minimise the risk of Legionella infection. He found no gross failure on the part of the hospital or our staff."

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WHETHER you're an experienced guitar player or a clarinet novice you will find everything you need to develop your musical skills at Soham Music.

The well-stocked showroom has been based in Soham for just four months but as owner Peter Wells explains it's already proving to be a big hit with customers from in and around the town.

"It's doing very well for a shop that's only been running for four months in a recession," says Peter. "We sell a lot of items online but people are always dropping in to see the products and the range of stock."

As well as a fantastic range of guitars including electric, folk and acoustic varieties, Peter also offers an electric guitar repair service and is a Vintage Plus dealer so customers can guarantee they are receiving a high level of service. The guitar range offers items by Valencia, Palma, Vintage, Encore, Aria and more.

Soham Music also has in stock violins, drums, banjos, ukuleles, cornets, flutes and clarinets as well as percussion instruments so if you're looking to buy a musical instrument as a gift this Christmas or planning on learning an instrument in the new year look no further than the Soham showroom. You will also find all the accessories you can think of including guitar cases and strings, plectrums, tuners and cleaning kits alongside a full range of music books, sheet music and music tuition DVD's.

Peter has lived and worked in Soham for 25 years and has previously managed the Downfields Garage in Soham before running a taxi and chauffeur firm.

Soham Music: With owner Peter Wells.

Customer service is high on Peter's list and customers to the showroom will be given his full attention. Soham Music also has a popular online shop and anything you can't find in store or on the website Peter will do his best to get it in store for you.

Soham Music is conveniently located at 51 Regal Drive, Soham where there is plenty of free parking.

Opening hours are Monday and Wednesday 12pm-5pm, Tuesday 12pm-7.30pm, Thursday closed, Friday 12pm-7.30pm, Saturday 9am-5pm and Sunday by arrangement.

For more information or to visit the showroom outside of these hours please email to *sales@soham-music.co.uk* or call Peter on 07734 106909.

Charity hopes for bags of support to fund work

A CHARITY which supports people with learning difficulties and disabilities has launched a new house-to-house charity bag collection scheme.

Branching Out, based in Littleport, will be sending out bags across East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Kings Lynn, West Norfolk, Huntingdonshire and Forest Heath.

Every bag of donated items will help Branching Out to provide vital support and equipment to treat people age 16 plus in your area.

Branching Out's charity shop co-ordinator, said: "Branching Out's house-to-house collection scheme is one that is really worth giving your support to help benefit a small local charity: meaning however small or large your donation, you can be sure that every last penny will go to help this great cause.

"By simply donating your items, you will be helping to raise much-needed funds for Branching Out to help people with learning disabilities and difficulties in your local area."

Collection bags will be sent out to homes five times a year for supporters to fill.

Donations please: staff and members of Branching Out celebrate the launch of the new service. CP.

Market day gives boost to village hall work fund

CRAFT stalls and a Santa's Grotto helped to raise more than £700 for a village hall.

Festive spirits were high when around 250 people flocked to Wicken's Village Christmas Market last weekend.

Visitors were treated to a wide range of stalls, mulled wine, mince pies and plenty of homemade chutneys and jams.

Children also got to meet Santa in his grotto after he arrived by pony and trap. The market raised more than £700 in total, which will go towards the village hall.

Jilly Rogers, the chair of Wicken Village Hall, said: "Our next project is to renovate the lavatories and kitchen and the funds from this event will go towards this work.

"The village hall is the focus of village life and the Christmas Market proved what an active community we have in Wicken."

Clothing giant on way to city

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

DESIGNER clothing store Fat Face is on its way to Ely.

The high street giant is set to open up on Market Street, the *Weekly News* can confirm.

Fat Face, which specialises in active lifestyle clothing for men, women and children, is taking over the vacant children's store Adams.

Bosses hope to open the new shop on January 16.

A spokeswoman for the company said: "We chose Ely as the location because we liked the area and the store's proximity to the Market Square.

"Also, the city itself meets our requirements completely in terms of size and customer demographic.

"We are really looking forward to becoming part of the local community."

The Ely Traders' Association described the news as "wonderful".

Elaine Griffin-Singh, the group's chairman, added: "This really is brilliant news.

"We need more clothes shops in Ely so not only is this injecting life into an empty premises but it is giving residents more of what we need.

"Shops like Fat Face will help to keep people shopping in Ely and not venturing into Cambridge and Peterborough."

The news comes just weeks after it was confirmed the city's empty Woolworths store was being taken over by high street fashion chain M&Co.

A handful of other shops have also been given a new lease of life, including the new Caitlin's café on High Street and Christmas shop in The Cloisters.

Mrs Griffin-Singh added: "Things do seem to be perking up in Ely now.

"There are many small shops which have been taken over and appear to be doing well.

"Big stores are the problem but with Woolies being taken over and now Adams, it is really promising news."

Tracey Harding, team leader for tourism and town centres at East Cambridgeshire District Council, said: "This is such good news.

"It is absolutely great that a biggie like this is coming in.

"Ely has a fantastic mix of independent traders but it is stores like this that give the mix that shoppers want and need.

"Hopefully, this will lead to more big traders coming in and boosting Ely's city centre."

Network date

A BUSINESS networking event will be held in Ely next Wednesday.

Ken Seymour will be speaking about computing and software issues at The Nyton Hotel, Barton Road.

The cost is £10, which includes a cooked breakfast.

For more information, call Chris on 07850 825291 or email *chris@avonfinance.co.uk*

All smashed

ALL the front windows on a house in Ely's New Barns Avenue have been smashed.

The incident happened at 6.30am on Saturday.

A van was seen pulling up outside the property.

Call police on 0345 4564564 with any information.

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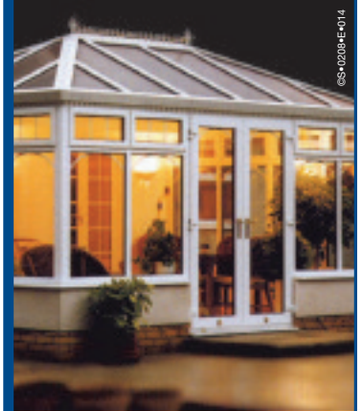
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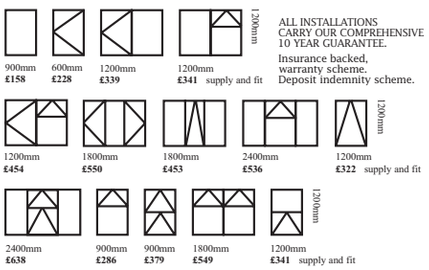

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FOCUS ON

Sedgeway Business Park

(off A142), Witchford, Ely, CB6 2HY

Lighting up the joyous way

ADVERTISING FEATURE

IF you're planning a revamp for your home in 2010 then Witchford's Sedgeway Business Park is the place to go.

Offering a fantastic range of tiles, lighting or flooring, and a good dose of skills and expertise, you will find it all in the one location on the Witchford-based park.

TJ Flooring, Ely Tile Centre and Witchford Lighting Centre are all based on the site, which has plenty of free parking so all you have to worry about is browsing the wide range of stock.

Witchford Lighting Centre has lights for every room of your home. The small family business has been trading for five years and if you can't find what you're looking for in store then be sure to take a look through the selection of catalogues available. All light fittings are available on a supply-only or a full fitting service.

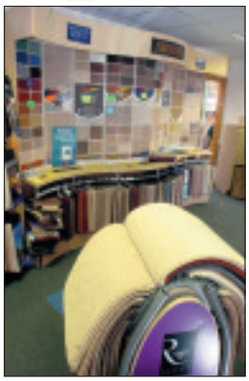
At T J Flooring you will find a solution to all your flooring needs. The established business has been successfully trading on the park for the last 10 years and is always improving and updating its stock.

If it's tiles you're after then your first stop should be Ely Tile Centre. Located on the park the centre offers a design for every room of your home at prices to suit all pockets. The tiles are imported from worldwide destinations to give customers a varied choice. David supplies the global range by buying tiles from distributors in East Anglia who import the stock themselves.

Selling wall tiles from Portugal, Spain, Italy, Germany and the Czech Republic and floor tiles from Brazil, China, Iran, India and Turkey, Ely Tile Centre can offer customers an impressive choice.

For more information about Witchford Lighting Centre call (01353) 664108. For T J Flooring call (01353) 650064 and Ely Tile Centre call (01353) 667555.

Witchford Lighting Centre: A design for every room of your home.

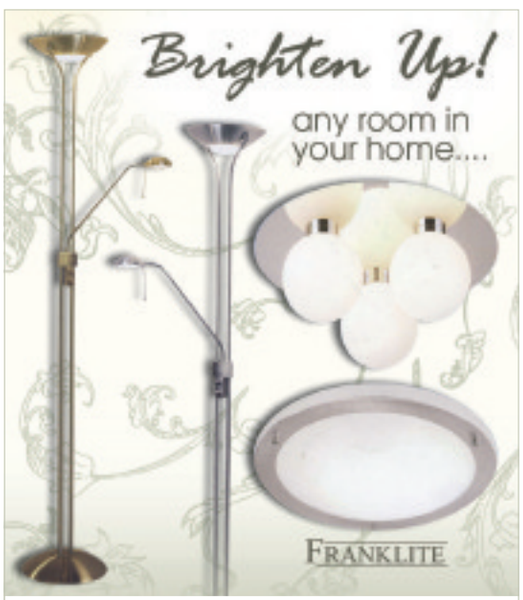


Free parking: Well worth a visit.

Fantastic range: At Ely Tile Centre on the same site.

Merry Christmas from 3 of the best on

Sedgeway Business Park, Witchford



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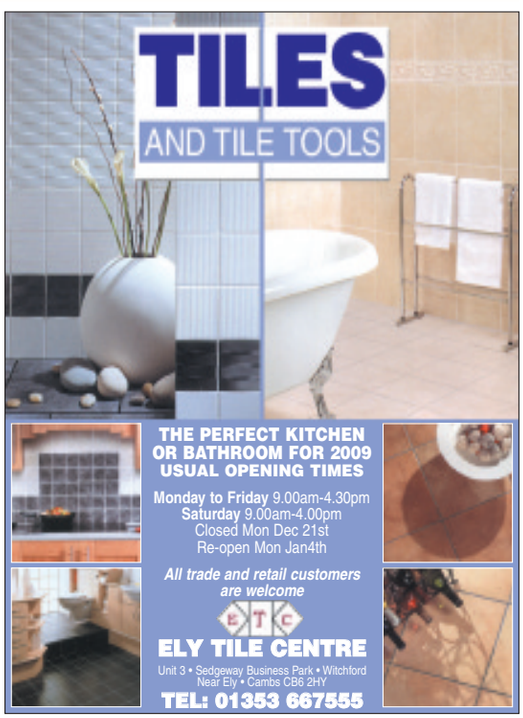
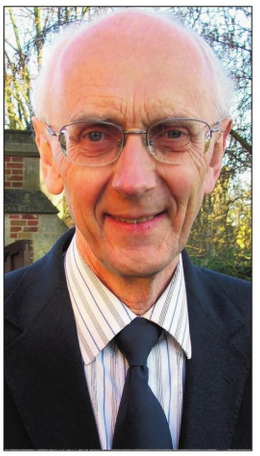
Unit 2 Sedgeway Business Park Witchford Ely Cambs



Governor role for pathologist



PATHOLOGIST Professor Andrew H. Wyllie, whose research has been crucial in directing the quest for new cancer treatments, has joined the board of governors of The King's School Ely.

Professor Wyllie (pictured right) moved from his native Scotland in 1998, following his appointment as Professor of Pathology and head of Cambridge University's Department of Pathology and Honorary Consultant of Addenbrooke's Hospital.

Over the past 30 years his research has concentrated on two areas of medical sciences – apoptosis, the process by which living cells are deleted from tissues, and the changes in the genetic make-up of cells of cancers in the colon and rectum.

His name is most closely associated with apoptosis, which he first studied with his supervisors at the University of Aberdeen as a PhD student in the early 1970s.

As head of department he is ultimately responsible for the teaching of pathology in Cambridge University to undergraduates in medicine and in veterinary and biological science and some 800 students embark on foundation, advanced or clinical courses each year.

In 1967 Professor Wyllie was awarded the Murray Medal for the most distinguished graduate in medicine from the University of Aberdeen.

Inspectors' praise for 'committed teachers'

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

SOHAM Village College has some strong features which make it popular with parents and students, according to Government inspectors.

But there is room for improvements to the quality of teaching and learning provided.

Ofsted inspectors praised the behaviour of students and the leadership of the college and found students' achievement was "significantly above average".

The report said: "Inspectors observed some outstanding practice in lessons.

"Teachers' subject knowledge is good and relationships between students and teaching staff are very good.

"In the best lessons, learning objectives are precise and well understood by students.

"Attainment in lessons is good, with attainment by students with special educational needs and/or disabilities outstanding.

"A very purposeful learning atmosphere exists in a large majority of lessons. Students clearly enjoy their learning and relationships with teaching staff are very good."

Inspectors also said the headteacher, senior staff and governors know the strengths and weaknesses of the college and are committed to moving the college forward.

The report added: "The vision of leaders, to improve achievement for all students, is shared by all staff and they are committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all students."

The college was also described as a "safe and harmonious" community.

Areas that need improving are the quality of teaching and learning.

Staff were advised to build on improvements already made and drive through further change.

Headteacher Dr Carin Taylor said: "I am pleased that Ofsted recognised that several aspects of our school are outstanding.

"These judgements are testimony to the positive and cohesive quality of our school community, which delivers significantly above average academic achievement with exceptional care, guidance and support for its students.

"Our students benefit from our strong partnership working and themselves make an outstanding contribution to their own school community.

"I am delighted that Ofsted recognised the many improvements we have made in recent years and thank our students, parents, staff and governors for their rich contribution to this outcome."

Coach house for backyard

A COACH house could be built in Ely's St Mary's Street.

Mr J. Bowles wants to build a coach house dwelling and garage at the rear of his property. Plans have been submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council.

To have your say on the proposals, visit *www.eastcambs.gov.uk*

Caravan goes from farm

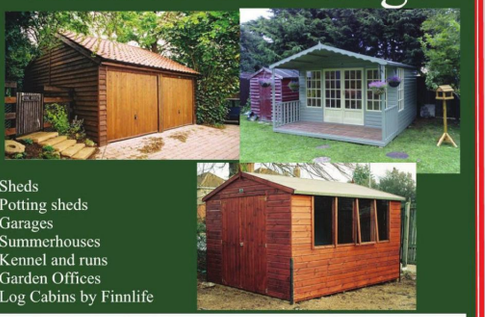
A CARAVAN has been stolen from a farm in Ely. Thieves removed the gate of the yard in Witchford Road and then stole the caravan from inside.

The theft happened overnight on Wednesday, December 9. Anyone with any information should call police on 0345 4564564.

Fuel stolen from lorries

THIEVES have siphoned off fuel from two lorries. The vehicles were parked in the Chettisham Business Park overnight on December 1 when the incident happened. Anyone with any information should call police on 0345 4564564.

Quality Timber Buildings



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Thief steals car and raids home

POLICE are investigating a burglary in which thousands of pounds worth of photographic equipment was stolen.

It happened at an address in Haigh's Close, Chatteris, on Wednesday, December 9.

Police believe the burglar stole the victim's car – a silver Ford Focus – from outside Hester Adrian Work Centre, in Hawthorn Way, Cambridge, at about 3.30pm before raiding his house later that day.

Items stolen included: a Nikon D35 digital black SLR camera; a Nikon D300S digital black SLR camera; a Nikon black 24-70mm camera lens; a Nikon black 85mm lens; a Ducati 8GB compact flash memory card; a silver 80 GB Ipod classic MP3 player; a black Playstation 3; seven Playstation 3 games; a black Acratech camera tripod; and black Manfrotto and Kata camera bags.

DC Anthony Grief, investigating, said: "I would urge anyone with information about either of these crimes to contact police.

"I would particularly like to hear from anyone who has seen the stolen vehicle, has been approached about buying the vehicle or any of the stolen items, or has seen any of the stolen items or vehicle advertised."

Anyone with information should contact DC Grief, at Ramsey Police Station, on 0345 456 4564, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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Plans for extension

A HOUSE in Ely's Tennyson Place could soon boast a new garden room.
Mr and Mrs R. Nash have applied for planning permission to build the single storey extension at the back of their property.
The proposals also include a covered porch to the front of the building.
East Cambridgeshire District Council is expected to make a decision on the plans within the next two months. For more information, visit *www.eastcambs.gov.uk*

Thief takes microwave

POLICE are appealing for information after a microwave was stolen from someone's front garden.
A resident in Camping Close, Haddenham, left the microwave outside the property to be taken for scrap overnight. But the item was stolen by thieves before collectors got there.
The incident happened overnight on Tuesday, December 8.
Anyone with any information should call police on 0345 4564564.

Festive fun at Paradise

THERE will be festive fun and games at Ely's Paradise Centre on Saturday.
East Cambridgeshire District Council's mobile play scheme will visit the leisure facility from noon-4pm.
Aimed at babies to teenagers, there will be all sorts of fun activities and games going on, all free of charge. For more information, call Lewis Bage on (01353) 66555.

Moped is stolen

A MOPED has been stolen from a property in Littleport.
The Gilera Runner moped was taken from a house in Hempfield Place, along with its security chain.
The incident happened overnight on Tuesday, December 8.
Anyone with any information should call police on 0345 4564564.

Prank which led to death 'was supposed to be laugh'

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

A MAN accused of the manslaughter of prisoner Brian Haynes thought the assault would be "a laugh" and not end in his death, a court has heard.

Dale Maddison, 43, denies the manslaughter of the 33-year-old in Peterborough prison in September last year. The former St Ives taxi driver died after suffering a heart attack caused by blunt force injury to his head and face.

Five men are on trial at Norwich Crown Court accused of manslaughter.

Maddison, of Deacons Lane, Ely, told the court: "I have been in prisons for 22 years and this is the first time I have pleaded not guilty. I have a home to go to now and if I am found guilty I will lose it."

Shane Farrington, 26, of HMP Peterborough; Sammy Lindsay, 22, now of Hackney, East London; Sebastian Waller, 26, of Morland Court, Peterborough; and Gary Stretch, 43, of Badgeney Road, March, all deny the offence.

A sixth prisoner, Paul Jefford, 24, of Wellington Street, Peterborough, has admitted manslaughter.

Maddison said he was asked to fake an epileptic fit on the night of the fatal attack.

He said: "I didn't know what they planned to do. I thought it was going to be a laugh. I thought they were going to tie someone up in a sheet or something to provide a bit of entertainment.

"I didn't know it was going to be manslaughter."

The court heard Haynes' cell was ransacked and items were stolen.

Maddison said: "I would have told them there was no heroin in there."

He said Jefford had run into a cell and said: "I have killed someone."

Maddison said: "I then thought: 'I am in trouble.' I had no idea something like this was going to happen."

Haynes was jailed for four years for causing grievous bodily harm and drug dealing after attacking a stranger in Cambridge with a baseball bat.

The trial continues.

Babe Rosie in search of a sty

Precious porker: Rosie the pig needs to find a new home. CP

FORGET Babe – Rosie, the people-loving pig, is looking for a new home.

The RSPCA Block Fen Animal Centre, near Ely, has had Rosie since August after her owner could no longer care for her.

Now, the precious porker, which is less than a year old, is seeking a permanent home.

An animal care assistant at the centre said: "Rosie is a lovely friendly pig and likes nothing better than being around people.

"She's a very mischievous character and chases our feet when we get in her paddock.

"Rosie deserves a happy long-term home with people who can give her the attention she needs."

Rosie, who is a cross-breed pig, needs her own field with space to wallow and a pig ark/shed to sleep in.

A new owner must have, or be prepared to obtain, a DEFRA holding number for their property.

Anyone who thinks they can offer Rosie a new home should contact Block Fen on 0300 123 0726.

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Building you a future

ADVERTISING FEATURE

All jobs considered, no matter how large or small

LITTLE Downham-based building company Barrow and Layn Builders, has had a successful first six months and would like to wish existing and new customers a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Owned and run by experienced builders Paul Barrow and Ben Layn, who have both worked in the building industry for more than 10 years, the company has continued to expand in its first six months working in and around the Ely area, and is looking forward to an equally impressive 2010.

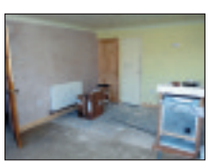
Barrow and Layn Builders provide a friendly service which covers all areas of the building trade from new builds to renovations and extensions as well as general building work. They can project manage your new build and work with experienced and reliable tradesman to carry out your plumbing and electrical needs.

Paul and Ben offer free advice and quotations on any building work from a simple repair to a garden wall to a new build – no job is too big or small.

The building firm is based at 16 Oak Farm Drive, Little Downham. For more information or to arrange a free quote please call Paul on (01353) 699197 or 07921 394703 or Ben on (01353) 861143 or 07775 843086.

Barrow and Layn Builders: High levels of competence.

Impressive: Project-management is part of the service.



Big or small: All jobs fine.

Feeling unwell this winter? There's a range of NHS Services available on your doorstep

Self-care	Self-care is the best choice to treat very minor illnesses and injuries. A range of common winter illnesses and injuries can be treated at home simply by combining a well-stocked medicine cabinet with plenty of rest.
NHS Direct	For information on all aspects of health and health care, go to www.nhs.uk. It allows you to check your symptoms, check hundreds of conditions and treatments and find telephone numbers and addresses for most NHS organisations, including hospitals and GPs or call 0845 46 47.
Pharmacist	Visit your pharmacy when you are suffering from a common winter health problem that does not require being seen by a nurse or doctor. Your pharmacist can provide advice on common winter illnesses and the best medicines to treat them.
GP	If you have an illness or injury that just will not go away, make an appointment with your local GP. They provide a range of services by appointment, including medical advice, examinations and prescriptions. When absolutely essential, GPs can also provide home visits out-of-hours.
NHS Walk-in Centre and Minor Injury Units	Walk-in centres and Minor Injury Units treat minor illnesses and injuries that do not need a visit to A&E. For more information go to www.nhs.uk
A&E 999	Accident and Emergency departments should only be used in a critical or life-threatening situation. A&E departments provide immediate emergency care for people who show the symptoms of serious illness or are badly injured. Dialing 999 and stating a medical emergency will result in a response vehicle being sent to your location.

Pharmacy Opening Times for Christmas and the New Year

Friday 25th December 2009	**Opening hours**
Boots – 17 Old Market, Wisbech	11.00am - 1.00pm
Saturday 26th December 2009	**Opening Hours**
Boots – 17-19 Broad Street, March	8.30am - 5.30pm
Boots – 15 The Horsefair, Wisbech	10.00am - 4.00pm
Fairbrother Pharmacy Ltd – 5 Church Terrace, Wisbech	9.00am - 1.00pm
Lloyds Pharmacy – 31 High Street, Soham	10.00am - 3.00pm
Lloyds Pharmacy – 19 High Street, Ely	10.00am - 3.00pm
Lloyds Pharmacy – 22 Main Street, Littleport	10.00am - 3.00pm
North Brink Pharmacy – 7 North Brink, Wisbech	7.00am - 10.00pm
Tesco Instore Pharmacy – March Industrial Estate, March	8.30am - 12.30pm 1.00pm - 6.00pm
Monday 28th December 2009	**Opening Hours**
Alliance Pharmacy – 98 Norfolk Street, Wisbech	10.00am - 4.00pm
Boots – 15 The Horsefair, Wisbech	8.30am - 5.30pm
Boots – 17-19 Broad Street, March	10.00am - 12.00am 1.00pm - 4.00pm
Tesco Instore Pharmacy - Sandown Road, Wisbech	8.00am - midnight
Tesco Instore Pharmacy – March Industrial Estate, March	8.00am - midnight
Tesco Instore Pharmacy – Angel Drove, Ely	8.00am - midnight
Friday 1st January 2010	**Opening Hours**
Boots – 15 The Horsefair, Wisbech	10.00am - 4.00pm

Patient Advice & Liaison Service

The PALS office will be closed 25 & 28 December 2009 and 1 January 2010.

Open 9.00 am - 5.00 pm
Monday - Friday
Freephone 0800 279 2535

Contraception and Sexual Health Services

The Laurels, Cambridge - Contraception & Sexual Health Clinic
closed: 25, 26, 28 December & 1 January

GU Medicine Clinic, Princess of Wales Hospital, Ely
closed: 25,26 28 December & 1 January

GU Medicine Clinic, North Cambs Hospital, Wisbech
closed: 25, 26, 28 December & 1 January

Emergency contraception can be obtained from your GP or a pharmacist.

To access your **GP** or **Dentist** out of hours or when the surgery is closed over the Christmas period please telephone your surgery as normal. You will either be given a number to call or your call will be automatically re-directed.

NHS Walk-in Centre	Minor Injury Units		
St Neots Health Centre, 24 Moores Walk, St Neots PE19 1AG (01480 219317) Open Monday to Sunday 8am to 8pm	**Princess of Wales Hospital, Ely.** Closed 25 December & 1 January. Open usual hours all other times.	**North Cambs Hospital, Wisbech.** Closed 25, 26, 27, 28 December & 1, 3 January. Open usual hours all other times.	**Doddington Community Hospital.** Closed 25, 26, 27, 28 December & 1,2,3 January. Open usual hours all other times.

NHS Cambridgeshire

Looking your best during Christmas and New Year

The festive season brings parties and gatherings of family and friends, for many of us a winter trip or holiday too. We all want to look and feel our very best at this time of year but maybe have something about ourselves we would like to improve or change. Are you concerned by your teeth and embarrassed to smile? Do those laughter lines and wrinkles leave you feeling self conscious? At Enhance we can help you revive and refresh your appearance. A new smile and brighter complexion will banish those unwanted feelings and boost your confidence.

Enhance provides state-of-the-art general and cosmetic dentistry incorporating the latest technologies. We also offer the most successful facial rejuvenation procedures including anti-wrinkle treatments, fillers, peels plus new **micro-needle therapy** alongside comprehensive skincare and maintenance programme's for problem skin such as pigmentation marks and acne.

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Ho! Ho! Ho! Join us this Christmas at the Mobile Play Scheme

East Cambridgeshire District Council's Mobile Play Scheme is coming to you! We will be bringing lots of fun activities, games and equipment for everyone aged 0-16 (inclusive)...**free of charge!** Look out for different locations each month!

December

Ely
Saturday 19th December
Paradise Centre
12:00 - 4:00pm
Christmas Special

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

East Cambridgeshire Strategic Partnership

Mobile Play Scheme
East Cambs Sport
Developing Sport & Physical Activity
www.ECSport.co.uk

For more information please contact Lewis Bage on 01353 665555, or email lewis.bage@eastcambs.gov.uk

BUY LOCAL this Christmas

Whether you're looking for jewellery, fashion bags or cufflinks, head for Market Street

Exquisite – by name and design

ADVERTISING FEATURE

WHETHER you're looking for a set of stylish cuff links for dad, a gorgeous bag for mum or a one-off piece of jewellery for your fashion conscious sister or loved one, you will find it at Exquisite.

Located on Market Street in Ely, Exquisite is popular with savvy shoppers looking for fabulous gifts and, following its recent move, the shop now has even more fantastic items to offer to customers. Exquisite offers a warm welcome to both existing customers and to new ones who haven't yet discovered what they have been missing.

You don't have to travel far to see the new-look shop as it is now based in its neighbouring shop at 59 Market Street. The shop offers more space to display the collections and is now spread over two floors, with the first floor dedicated entirely to gifts.

Owners James and Janice Mackay are preparing for their sixth Christmas in Ely and this year there is even more to choose from. The couple are passionate about Exquisite and are always on hand to help their customers find exactly what they are looking for.

The range of gem set silver jewellery is now even larger and includes stones from every corner of the globe in a wide range of colours and shapes. New to the store is a stylish range of silver jewellery using genuine Swarovski crystal, this compliments Exquisite's plain silver jewellery ranges which include necklaces, pendants, earrings, bangles and bracelets.

If you're buying for a fashionista then you're sure to find a gift to please from the range of fashion jewellery, evening and day time handbags and scarves and wraps.

If it's a quirky gift you're after then Exquisite has plenty of unique gift ideas including ceramics, photo frames, jewellery boxes, candles and candle holders and gifts for men.

"At a time when every penny counts Exquisite offers a huge range so you can get more for your money without compromising on quality," says James. "Once again we are offering the ever-popular Wish List, helping your friends and family to make the right choice."

But if you just can't decide between the assortment of fabulous jewellery, gorgeous gifts and accessories, gift vouchers are available in £5, £10 and £25 denominations.

Exquisite is now open seven days a week until Christmas, offering you every opportunity to select the perfect Christmas gifts at a time to suit you.

Opening times are Monday to Saturday 9.30am-5pm and Sunday 11am-3pm.

For more information call (01353) 669900.

Even more to choose from: Store now spreads over two floors.

Simply beautiful: Exquisite is on Market Street.

Simply the best for Christmas Gifts...
Even more choice on two floors
Stroll down Market Street
EXQUISITE
featuring J&I Gems
• Gem Jewellery
• Silver Jewellery
• Fashion Jewellery
• Fabulous Handbags
• Scarves & Wraps
• Unique Gift Ideas
59 Market Street, Ely, Cambs
01353 669900
Opposite Ely Museum

CHRISTMAS TREES
All sizes, good shape & needle retention
HOLLY WREATHS
were £5.50
now £4.50
CUT FLOWERS & BOUQUETS
Ready Now or Delivery Service Available
Ready now or orders taken
Sharmans Garden Centre
Camel Road, Littleport
Tel: 01353 862298
(Open 7 days)

Wishing all our Customers a Merry Christmas!
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RSP £69.99
Our price £59.99
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RSP £79.99
Our price £69.99
JUWEL AQUARIUM
Ely Aquatics
Call 01353 668880
Unit 13, The Dock (behind Tesco)
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Christmas Opening Times.
Xmas Eve 10am - 1pm
Xmas Day & Boxing Day - Closed
Sunday 27th 10am - 4pm
Mon 28th - Wed 30th 10am - 5pm
New Years Eve 10am - 1pm
New Years Day - Closed
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• Quarantined tropical and coldwater fish, plants and accessories.
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Produce this voucher upon purchase of a KORALL 60 Aquarium and receive a free £10 gift voucher.
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www.woodstockpinefurniture.com
Large car park at rear

Relax and feel wonderful

Spa ely: A great place for a wide range of beauty and other cosmetic treatments – and some super festive gft ranges.

Spa ely treatments are superb

ADVERTISING FEATURE

EVERYONE knows that Christmas can be a stressful time but a visit to the sumptuous Spa ely will leave you feeling relaxed and ready to face the busy festive season.

Located on Forehill, the beautiful spa offers a relaxing location in which to indulge in one of the signature treatments or to have a simple cosmetic or waxing treatment.

For ultimate relaxation before Christmas really gets underway why not treat yourself to one of the truly sumptuous Spa ely signature treatments, designed to help you relax and unwind and leave you looking your best for the party season.

Spa ely is the only independent, Molton Brown day spa in the country and is one of the premier accounts in the UK for Elemis products.

If you are looking for some pampering gift ideas then take a look at the Molton Brown, Bare Minerals and Elemis gift boxes for him and her starting at £25. The luxury products are guaranteed to bring a smile to someone's face on Christmas morning and with every purchase you make in December Spa ely will give you a free Christmas treat.

Gift vouchers are also available and make the perfect gift for the friend or family member who has everything.

Spa ely is open Monday, Tuesday and Saturday 9am-5pm, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-9pm and will also be open on Sunday, December 13 and 20 from 10am-4pm.

On Christmas Eve the spa will be open from 9am-4pm and will then be open on Wednesday, December 30 and new year's eve from 10am-4pm.

Spa ely is at 35 Forehill, Ely. For more information call (01353) 664662 or visit www.spa-ely.com.

You can also shop on line at *www.spa-ely.com*.

Pampering: Molton Brown.

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Spa ely

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• Free little gifts with every purchase • Stocking fillers starting from £2.25 • Spa Gift vouchers for that special someone • De-stressing treatments and party make-overs • Online shopping at www.spa-ely.com

Open Mon, Tues and Sat 9am to 5pm; Wed, Thurs & Fri late opening 9am to 9pm
Sun Dec 20th 10am - 4pm. Christmas Eve, Wed Dec 30th and New Years Eve 9am to 4pm

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City Cycle Centre

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Open Mon-Sat 8.30am-5.30pm

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Polly Pocket • Thomas • Brio • Pokemon • GoGo's • Match Attax & Stocking Fillers...

Window smashed as thieves break in

A PROPERTY in Ely's Barton Road has been raided by thieves.
Police are appealing for information after burglars smashed their way in using a spade.
The incident happened some time between 6.30pm and 8.30pm on Wednesday, December 9.
The offenders got in through the rear kitchen window, damaging the frame and latch with a spade.
Most rooms inside the house were searched but it is not known what has been stolen.
Anyone with any information should call police on 0345 4564564.

Plea for witnesses after van raided

A VAN had its window smashed while parked in Perry Close, Haddenham.
Police are appealing for information after the incident, which happened overnight on Wednesday, December 9.
The window was smashed and entry was gained.
Anyone with any information should call police on 0345 4564564.

Metal and mower go from garden

SCRAP metal and a lawn mower have been stolen from a garden in Littleport.
Police are appealing for information after the incident at a property in Millpit Furlong.
The items were stolen some time between 9am and 11.20am on Tuesday, December 8.
Anyone with any information should call police on 0345 456456.

MEMORIES

■ THIS week's picture, taken from our archives, shows pupils showing off their prizes.
Do you recognise anyone in the picture or know what the shields were for? Do you know where and when it was taken? Send your answers to: Memories, *Ely Weekly News*, 27 Market Place, Ely, CB7 4NP by Tuesday morning, or email *editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk*

Picture: 616113.

Last week's Memories photograph, from our archives, showed Ely children taking part in a nativity play at a local church. It was taken in December, 1982.

Picture: 454915.

Judge slams authorities in foster ruling

A CAMBRIDGESHIRE couple who took in a sick child could be forgiven for feeling abandoned to care for a boy disowned by the state, a judge said in a highly critical ruling.

Mr Justice Hedley, a judge in the High Court Family Division, said he listened in disbelief to the facts of the case where two local authorities disowned responsibility for funding the foster carers and the 6-year-old boy, who has special medical needs.

The judge said: "I have always had a high regard for the contribution that social workers make to the family justice system but if in fact we have reached a stage where budget need trumps welfare then we all need to know."

The child, referred to as 'I' to protect his identity, was born with a heart condition and his parents in the Isles of Orkney were unable to care successfully for him.

His welfare became the responsibility of Orkney Island Council and he then was taken in by Mr and Mrs O, a professional couple from Cambridgeshire, who had a family connection with 'I'.

There were difficulties from the start when Cambridgeshire County Council refused to provide an essential assessment on the couple because of "insufficient resources", said the judge.

He added: "I dare to think that many citizens of this state will feel a touch of shame that things could work out as they appear to have done in this case."

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

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The company has been running for four years and can meet all your electrical requirements. This year Daniel has introduced a separate side to the company which deals just with smaller electrical jobs.

Daniel says: "A lot of people don't want to ring an electrician to do something small like change a socket or to rewire a light because they think it's too small a job for an electrician to do. We want people to know that it isn't and that we have the facilities to cater for those small jobs which you can't do yourself."

D J Grace Electrical is an NICEIC registered company, which offers a full service from domestic re-wiring to PAT testing and general maintenance to installing fire alarms covering all domestic, commercial and industrial requirements.

For more information please call Daniel on (01353) 665919 or 07900 814254.

DJ GRACE Electrical Services Ltd

Waste and Recycling Collection in East Cambridgeshire over Christmas and New Year 2009/10

Black Sack, Recycling and Green Waste Collections

VEOLIA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Normal collection day	Collection takes place
Friday 25th December	Tuesday 29th Dec
Monday 28th December	Wednesday 30th December
Tuesday 29th December	Thursday 31st December
Wednesday 30th December	Saturday 2nd January
Thursday 31st December	Monday 4th January
Friday 1st January	Tuesday 5th January
Monday 4th January	Wednesday 6th January
Tuesday 5th January	Thursday 7th January
Wednesday 6th January	Friday 8th January
Thursday 7th January	Saturday 9th January
Friday 8th January	Monday 11th January
Monday 11th January	Tuesday 12th January
Tuesday 12th January	Wednesday 13th January
Wednesday 13th January	Thursday 14th January
Thursday 14th January	Friday 15th January
Friday 15th January	Saturday 16th January

Waste and Recycling collections return to normal from Monday 18th January 2010

For information or advice,
please visit; www.eastcambs.gov.uk
e-mail; customerservices@eastcambs.gov.uk
or telephone 01353 665555.

recycle
for East Cambridgeshire

Early Christmas gift for two good causes

ARTS and crafts have helped to raise around £200 for charity.

Two charities, Send a Cow and Jimmy's Night Shelter in Cambridge, will benefit from The Olive Tree Christmas Fair, held in Ely last month.

The four-day fair, held at The Olive Tree, attracted hundreds of visitors.

Inside, artists from across the region had everything from handmade Christmas cards and paintings to brooches for sale.

The centre, on Silver Street, has kept up the festive fun with a series of Christmas activities.

Tomorrow there will be an open door café from 10am-noon, followed on Sunday, by a family Christmas service at 10.30am.

All are welcome.

WE BUY GOLD
Turn your Gold, Silver & Platinum into
CASH
We buy all your new, old, broken & unwanted Gold, Silver & Platinum jewellery
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On yer bike: Aiden Merry, 13, was the star rider when students took part in a sponsored cycle last weekend. Picture: Richard Patterson 616947.

Students go round and round for guide dogs charity

PEDAL power at the City of Ely Community College has raised around £500 for charity.

A dozen students braved the winter weather and got on their bikes on Sunday to raise cash for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Pupils were sponsored by family and friends to complete as many laps of the school grounds as they could within two hours.

The star student was Aiden Merry, who managed to complete 37 laps in total.

Teacher Aaron French said: "The event went really well and the students all did fantastically well.

"Money raised will all go to Guide Dogs for the Blind and we are hoping to get towards the £500 mark once all the sponsor money is in."

Top tips on saving cash

It may be an expensive time of year for many of us, but help is at hand if your bank balance is feeling the strain.

Readers were asked for their money-saving tips as part of our partnership with Barclays Money Skills, designed to help you make the most of your money.

From actions you can take around the home, to useful websites, readers suggested a range of clever ideas and we have published many of them here. Thank you to all of you who took part.

1. Use websites such as *find-dvd.co.uk*, *find-cd.co.uk* and *find-book.co.uk* to track down the cheapest prices and *myvoucher codes.co.uk* to obtain money-saving discount codes. – **£watcher**

2. There are some really good offers on loft insulation from B&Q, Homebase, Focus etc – take a look in your loft, if you have less than the 270mm of insulation they recommend these days, top it up now at bargain prices.

If you can't do it yourself there are companies who will quote for the work and advise you on government grants available to you. Loft and wall insulation has one of the quickest payback periods around, typically less than two years; spend a little now to save a lot later. Utility bills will only go one way – up, up, up! – **Andrew**

3. If you join *www.greasypalm.co.uk* you can receive cash back through certain online purchases/offers.

All you have to do is log on to the site, search for the website you wish to make a purchase from (not everything is there) and make sure that you follow the links from Greasy Palm.

It's only a few per cent here and there and you can only withdraw when you reach £25 – but if you shop online a lot it could eventually be worth it. There are other cashback offers on the site so if you're looking for a new credit card etc check here first. I found out about this from *www.moneysaving expert.com* – which also has plenty of money-saving tips. – **Jen**

4. Use a 'hay-box' (thick insulation, such as old towels) to cook stews and curries once they have started to cook on the hob – it works for rice, too. Once pasta has come to a rolling boil, turn off the heat and let it cook in its own heat, with a towel over the lid.

If you're using the oven, fill it up with things. Keep your heating down and wear jumpers, or a blanket over you if sedentary. – **Chrissie**

5. If you have older double-glazed windows, before they started fitting trickle vents, most windows will lock in an open position by about half an inch (12mm) allowing some ventilation but maintaining security.

I find that this gap is too big in cold winter months (wasting heating) so use 25mm thick polystyrene insulation sheet cut into strips with a craft knife to block up most of the gap, leaving just enough for background ventilation.

The polystyrene will compress to give a good seal where you want it. You avoid condensation, save on heating and maintain security. On some windows you can retrofit trickle vents but this is beyond most DIYers. – **Andrew**

6. *www.uShare.co.uk* is all about saving money. It lets you borrow and lend everyday items with people who live or work in your local community.

You don't have to pay for each item you borrow as it works on a points system, meaning you could save lots of money by removing the need to buy something you may only use once! Simply borrow it, use it and return it. Have a look at *www.uShare.co.uk* – **John Wardle.**

7. Use *www.eastcoast.co.uk* to find cheap fares. Splitting tickets, buying advance fares, and buying online can all save you lots on the walk-up fares. Travel to Manchester from Cambridge for £10 instead of £85.50. And watch out for special offers, like MobiTix £1 tickets from London Euston. – **Nico**

8. Don't just allow your home and car insurance to renew themselves – check every year to see that you're getting the best deal in terms of price and cover. – **Paul**

9. Sign up to moneysavingexpert's newslettter, which is sent via email. – **John**

10. Draw up a household budget – you can't save money unless you know how you're spending it. – **Claire**

11. Consider making some of your Christmas presents. If you have a skill, use it to create personal gifts. – **Rachel**

'Get your children involved'

MARIE-CLAIRE Berreen, Barclays' community investment manager for the region, suggested ways parents can help children learn about money.

She said: "Our attitudes to money are often formed as a result of our early experiences so, for example, if our family had very little money we may be more careful with our own as a result. Alternatively, if it appeared as though family members got everything they asked for then we may struggle to prioritise our own spending.

"Helping people to increase money skills at an early age can make a huge difference when they become responsible for their own finances. You can help your children in many ways. For example, take them with you to do the weekly food shopping and give them tasks to do to help you.

"Ask them to help you to write your shopping list and stick to the items to keep within your budget. You could give them responsibility for purchasing an item on the list and ask them to help you to compare prices and find the cheapest item. You can then tell your child how much money they've saved your family."

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OPENING TIMES:
Monday - Saturday 9.30am - 5.30pm
Sunday 11.00am - 4.00pm
(Stores closed Weds 23rd - Sat 26th Dec)
Re-open on Sun 27th Dec @ 11.00am
info@wallaceking.co.uk
www.wallaceking.co.uk

For a tree that makes a Magical Christmas
Visit Rectory Farm Shop

Christmas Trees
Throughout December, our farmyard will be a "forest walk" of Christmas trees. You can choose from Nordman, Noblis or Norway Spruce. Don't forget the mistletoe!

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In our atmospheric barn you will get into the Christmas mood, discovering our stunning range of beautiful decorations, lights, gifts and stocking fillers. There is something to suit every pocket!

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SALE STARTS Saturday Dec 19th at 9.30am
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Christmas / New Year Opening:
Dec 24th 9.00am to 2.00pm
Dec 25th - CLOSED
Dec 26 -CLOSED
Dec 27th - Dec 31st 10.00am to 4.00pm
Jan 1st - CLOSED

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Electrical items go in home raid

POLICE are appealing for information after a house in Ely's Deacons Lane was burgled.

Thieves broke into the property through the rear window using a trowel.

Once inside, all rooms were searched and electrical items and jewellery were stolen.

The incident happened some time between 11.10am and 12.10am on Saturday.

Anyone who saw anything suspicious should call police on 0345 4564564.

Two-storey bid for property

A LITTLE Downham property could be made bigger.

Mrs M. Boughton, of Straight Furlong, wants to build a two-storey extension on her property.

Plans have been submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council and a decision is expected within the next eight weeks.

For more information, visit *www.eastcambs.gov.uk*

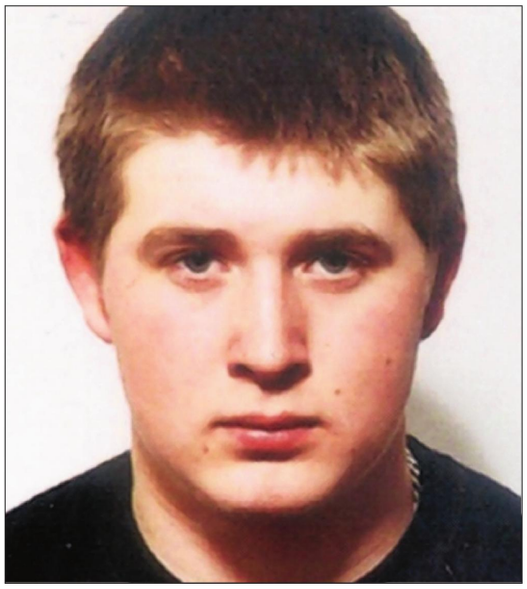
Thieves escape with stolen van

A FORD Escort van has been stolen in Soham.

The van was taken from Heron Croft overnight last Friday.

Anyone with any information should call police on 0345 4564564.

Graffiti teen gets order to behave



Asbo: for teenager Jordan Coleby.

A 16-YEAR-OLD boy renowned for disrupting people's lives in the Ely area has been handed an anti-social behaviour order (Asbo).

Jordan Coleby, who labels himself as a graffiti artist, will be subject to the Asbo's conditions for the next two years.

Coleby, of Lawns Crescent, Little Downham, was handed the strict order at Ely Magistrates' Court last Thursday.

The order bans him from carrying any cans, tins of paint or marker pens which could be used for graffiti in public and engaging in any behaviour which damages other people's property.

Coleby is also prevented from trespassing and engaging in any behaviour which causes nuisance, harassment, alarm or distress to others.

Brian Tully, Asbo co-ordinator for East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership, said: "Asbos are designed to be preventative, not punitive.

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

"All we want is to bring an end to the episodes of anti-social behaviour for which Jordan Coleby has been responsible, which have disrupted life for some of the vast majority of law-abiding tax-payers in the community.

"The restrictions imposed by the court are intended to provide protection to people who should be able to live normally without the unpleasantness of encountering, or being the victims of, anti-social behaviour.

"I hope Jordan will respond positively to the order, and see it as a turning point in his life.

"The consequence of failing to comply can be serious.

"Breach of an Asbo is a criminal offence, and can result in a significant financial penalty, or imprisonment."

Any breach of the orders should be reported to police on 0345 456 4564.

Hospital's £9m for expansion

A COMMUNITY hospital in Cambridgeshire is set to expand after securing a £9 million grant.

Space for 60 extra people will be created at Doddington Hospital, near March, after it won £4million from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and £5million from Sanctuary Group housing association.

The money will provide an extra 10 beds for NHS patients, who require intermediate care, palliative medicine or treatment for minor injuries.

Fifty one and two-bed flats will also be built for frail and elderly people. A new community hub will also provide a restaurant, gym, beauty salon and IT access.

Vinny Logan, project manager at NHS Cambridgeshire, said: "We are delighted to have secured the funding needed to enable Doddington Hospital to accommodate these new services.

"This funding is critical to enhance and protect the health services available to people in south Fenland in the future."

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WEEKLY NEWS THE GUIDE

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- What's showing on the big screen – Page 26
- All the weekend's TV viewing at a glance – Page 28

Julie comes back home for Christmas . . . and panto!

Cambridge's panto fave tells PAUL KIRKLEY about the luxury of staying at her parents' home for Christmas – and why she'll still be living with her twin sister Clare, even when she's a married woman.

CHRISTMAS for me isn't Christmas without panto," says Julie Buckfield of her return to Cambridge for her sixth year as the Arts Theatre's festive leading lady (or, more accurately, principal boy – this is her second stint as *Dick Whittington*, and she's also played the lead in *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Aladdin*).

"I've been getting excited since September. Brad [Fitt, director and dame par excellence] phoned me and said, 'I think I've got a rough draft of the script'. I said, 'Pleeease send it to me'. I get so excited. Because you know what you're coming back to – it's a totally different script, different songs, different ideas but it's seeing friendly faces and working with the same people.

"They're such a lovely bunch here. Rehearsals are hysterical – come 4 o'clock we've all got "the 4 o'clock funnies" – we can't even get a line out. It's a real team effort, from Brad writing and directing to Dave at the box office and Roger at stage door. Everybody knows each other and everybody says hello. It's been six years now, and I love it. I *love* it."

The 33-year-old former *Grange Hill* and *Hollyoaks* star also has another good reason for relishing her annual engagement at the Arts – it means she can stay with her parents in Fenstanton.

"A meal on the table every night, all your washing done? It's fantastic!" laughs Julie, taking a break from rehearsals backstage at the theatre. "What's lovely is, on Christmas Eve, everyone's like 'I've got to get back to Manchester, I've got to get back to Leeds', and I'm like, 20 minutes up the road!"

For Julie, whose older sister Karen lives in Swavesey, Cambridge has now become a second home.

"It's nice because the people of Cambridge always say hello to me," she says. "When I started having my car done by the mechanic near my parents', he said, 'I've been to every single one of your pantos'. So now he foolishly tells me when he's coming and he gets his name read out and a big wave, and he gets really embarrassed.

"Doing this job, I've been stuck in some rough places for Christmas," she laughs. "Actually I didn't – I drove home. But whenever I tell people where I'm working, they all go, 'Oh what a beautiful place to do panto'. And it is, because Cambridge is magical at Christmas. It's such a beautiful city."

Away from Cambridge, Julie still shares a house with her twin sister Clare, with whom she appeared in *Grange Hill*, and who went on to star in *2.4 Children* and, more recently, *Dancing On Ice*. In August next year, Julie is set to marry her fiancé Sam, who she describes as "a normal person" working in the IT industry. But even that won't mean saying goodbye to Clare.

"Oh no, we're still going to live together when I'm married," she says, as if the idea of one of them moving out had genuinely never occurred to her. "Me and Sam have the whole top floor. My sister and I are so close. Before I met Sam, I always used to say to Clare, 'What are we going to do? We're never going to meet the right man, we're going to be 80 years old, still living together, surrounded by cats, banging on the window and shouting, get out of my garden!'

"I miss her so much when I'm away. She's about to start panto rehearsals in Carlisle – she's doing *Dick Whittington* as well, but playing Alice."

Before she goes, I ask if Julie can clear something up for me. Sue Pollard once told me that panto was "the hardest work in the world, daahling", while Keith Chegwin insisted it wasn't really work at all – it was just "messing about". So who's right?

"It's a bit of both," says Julie diplomatically. "It is so much fun and, because it's not *Lear*, if things go wrong – if you trip up or you forget your line – you say, 'I'm sorry, I've had a day off', and you invite the audience to go along with it. They love it when anything goes wrong. So that keeps it fresh and keeps it enjoyable.

"They are long days but you know that when you sign the contract, so you don't complain. And, at the end of the day, to hear the audience's reaction and to have people waiting outside to meet you, it's just worth it – it's really, really worth it."

Dick Whittington and his Cat is on now at the Cambridge Arts Theatre and runs until January 17. Phone (01223) 503333 or go to *www.cambridgeartstheatre.com*

Team work: Julie as Dick Whittington with Matt Crosby as Idle Jack and Brad Fitt as Sarah the Cook. CP.

Leisure or events news? **email jordan.day@cambridge-news.co.uk** phone **(01353) 667916**

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STAR

Seasonal sounds from young Imps

ELY Cathedral's annual charity carol concert promises to be as spectacular as ever – especially with it being the diocese's 900th anniversary.

The event will be held next Tuesday and will see the choristers and The Ely Imps performing traditional carols alongside modern seasonal music.

Director of music, Paul Trepte, will conduct the concert and the Cambridge-based bass ensemble, Prime Bass, will be there supporting it.

The concert starts at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £15, £12 for concessions and £10 for children.

For tickets, call the cathedral box office on (01353) 660349

Duo show off art in old fire house

BEAUTIFUL paintings are currently on show in Ely.

Local artists Richard Neal and Anthony Day are exhibiting their work at the Old Fire Engine House on St Mary's Street.

The exhibition runs until Monday and entry is free.

For more information, visit *www.theoldfireenginehouse.co.uk* or call (01353) 662582.

Rockin' out on Christmas Eve

THE Rock Island Rebels will be entertaining the crowds in Prickwillow on Christmas Eve.

The popular band will host a rock 'n' roll night at the village's Hiam Sports and Social Club.

For more information or tickets, call (01353) 688269 or visit *www.hiam.org.uk*

Tragic tale of life and love in classic opera

AFTER the triumph of last season's concert performance of *Die Fledermaus*, The Cambridge Philharmonic Society is performing what may well be the world's most popular opera, Puccini's *La Boheme*, in concert.

Living in a darkened loft with his bohemian companions, poet Rodolfo comes across the beautiful seamstress Mimi. As they leave to join Rodolfo's friends at the Café Momus for a night of fun and festivities the struggling artists can barely afford, they fall head over heels in love.

Set in 1830s Paris, *La Boheme* follows the twists and turns of the lovers' bittersweet relationship as they come to terms with their own hearts.

But things can, and do, go wrong. Marcello and Musetta argue all the time. Rodolfo and Mimi's intense passion doesn't last even though we know, despite their apparent cluelessness, that they still love each other.

And when in the last act, she turns up in the communal loft, brought in by Musetta who has found the abandoned seamstress sick and unhappy on the streets, it is clear to everyone that she is dying.

Marcello, Musetta and their artist friends run to sell their last belongings to buy medicines, while Mimi and Rodolfo rediscover their love.

Loosely based on Scènes *de la vie de bohème* by Henry Murger, it has been described as a sort of 19th century version of the hippie dream.

The music ranges from the fun and sensual arias of the beautiful Musetta to Rodolfo and Mimi's tender, exploratory songs, full of wonder and passion, which have become some of the most famous in opera.

The Cambridge Philharmonic Society's blazing, lusty production features international soloists Linda Richardson and Bonaventura Bottone, plus a full orchestra and chorus.

La Boheme, West Road Concert Hall, Saturday 7.30pm. Tickets cost from £12. Contact the Cambridge Arts Theatre box office on (01223) 503333 or *www.cam-phil.org.uk*

Opera lover's favourite: La Boheme will be performed by The Cambridge Philharmonic Society, with Linda Richardson, above, among the soloists. CP.

Premiere for brand new carol

THE Papworth Hospital Charity's Christmas Carol Service will be held at Ely Cathedral tomorrow.

Written by Cambridge composer and organist Paul Bryan, *The Lord at First Did Adam Make*, is a new carol which will be performed for the first time by the Ely Cathedral Octagon Singers, to whom the carol is dedicated.

Helen Daniel, the hospital's fundraising manager, said: "We are very fortunate to be holding our carol service in the beautiful venue of Ely Cathedral and we are particularly excited this year at the chance to hear this new carol.

"This year the funds raised from the service will go towards purchasing a new portable hand-held echo device which monitors the pumping action of the heart.

"It's about the same size as a laptop and means patients can have accurate scans at their bedside so the diagnosis is even quicker and more convenient for patients."

Soprano soloist Kate Woolf will also perform at the service, having delighted the audience with her powerful performance last year.

The carol service starts at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available at £10 from the Papworth Hospital Charity on (01480) 364237.

Alternatively, email *fundraising@papworth.nhs.uk*

Cinema Listings

ELY THE MALTINGS
(01353) 616991
Times from Friday, December 18, until Thursday, December 24.
Up (U): Sun & Wed 3pm
An Education (12A): Sun & Wed 7.30pm

CAMBRIDGE VUE
0871 224 0240
Times from Friday, December 18, until Thursday, December 24.
Avatar 3D (12A): Daily 12.10pm, 3.30pm, 7pm; Daily except Thu 10.20pm.
Avatar (12A): Daily 1.10pm, 4.30pm, 9pm; Daily except Mon 8pm; Fri, Sat & Sun 11am, 2.10pm; Fri, Sat & Wed 11.20pm; Fri & Sat 5.30pm.
Avatar (ID Required) (18): Sun 5.30pm; Mon 8pm.
St Trinian's 2 - The Legend Of Fritton's Gold (PG): Daily 10am, 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.
Alvin And The Chipmunks 2 - The Squeakquel (U): Daily except Fri, Sat & Sun 10.10am, 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm.
Where The Wild Things Are (PG): Daily 10.50am, 1.20pm, 6.30pm.
A Christmas Carol 3D (PG): Daily 10am.
A Christmas Carol (PG): Daily 9.50am, noon (subtitled Sun), 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm (subtitled Tue).
Nativity! (U): Daily 11.10am, 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm.
The Twilight Saga - New Moon (12A): Daily 3.40pm, 8.45pm; Fri, Sat & Wed 11.40pm.
Planet 51 (U): Daily 12.40pm, 2.50pm, 5pm, 7.10pm.
The Box (12A): Daily 9.20pm; Fri, Sat & Wed 11.50pm.
Law Abiding Citizen (18): Daily except Thu 11pm.
Paranormal Activity (15): Daily 9.10pm; Daily except Thu 11.10pm.
2012 (12A): Daily 9.15pm.
Up (U): Daily 10.30am.
Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs (U): Daily 10.20am.

CAMBRIDGE CINEWORLD
0871 200 2000
Times from Friday, December 18, until Thursday, December 24.
Alvin And The Chipmunks 2 - The Squeakquel (U): Daily except Fri, Sat & Sun 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 5.30pm, 6.30pm, 7.30pm.
Avatar 3D (12A): Daily 11.40am, 3.20pm, 7pm; Daily except Thu 9.30am, 1.10pm, 4.50pm, 8.30pm, 9pm; Thu 10.40am, 2.20pm, 6pm.
Avatar (12A): Daily 12.20pm, 4pm; Daily except Thu 7.40pm.
St Trinian's 2 - The Legend Of Fritton's Gold (PG): Daily 11.10am, 1.40pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm; Daily except Thu 9.10pm.
Where The Wild Things Are (PG): Daily 11am, 4.25pm, 6.50pm; Daily except Sun 1.45pm.
Planet 51 (U): Daily except Fri, Sat & Sun 10.50am, 3.25pm; Fri, Sat & Sun 12.15pm, 2.40pm, 5pm.
Paranormal Activity (15): Daily except Thu 9.40pm; Fri, Sat & Sun 7.20pm.
Law Abiding Citizen (18): Daily except Thu 9.20pm.
Nativity! (U): Daily 1.15pm, 5.50pm.
The Twilight Saga - New Moon (12A): Daily except Thu 8.45pm; Fri, Sat & Sun 11.45am, 2.45pm, 5.45pm.
2012 (12A): Daily except Mon & Thu 8.15pm.
A Christmas Carol 3D (PG): Daily 11.50am, 2pm, 4.20pm (subtitled Sun), 6.45pm (subtitled Mon).
A Christmas Carol (PG): Daily except Fri, Sat & Sun 10.10am; Fri, Sat & Sun 10.50am, 3.25pm.
De Dana Dan (Subtitled) (PG): Sun 1.10pm; Mon 8pm.
G-Force (PG): Sat 10am.
The Santa Clause 3 - The Escape Clause (U): Sat 10am.
Aliens In The Attic (PG): Sat 10am.

CAMBRIDGE ARTS PICTUREHOUSE
0871 704 2050
Times from Friday, December 18, until Thursday, December 24.
Avatar (12A): Daily except Mon, Tue & Wed 11am, 5.30pm; Fri, Sat & Sun 2.10pm, 8.50pm; Mon, Tue & Wed 1pm, 4.30pm,pm; Thu 2.15pm.
Where the Wild Things Are (PG): Daily except Tue 6.45pm; Daily except Sat & Thu 9pm; Daily except Sat & Tue 4.30pm; Daily except Sat, Tue & Wed 2.15pm; Sat 12.45pm, 3.15pm; Tue 1.45pm, 4pm.
A Serious Man (15): Daily except Thu 9.10pm; Thu 2pm.
Up 2D (U): Daily except Sat, Tue & Wed noon; Mon, Tue & Wed 4.40pm; Sat & Sun 4.15pm; Fri 4.50pm; Tue 11.30am; Wed 2pm.
The White Ribbon (15): Fri & Mon 2pm.
Tulpan (12A): Sat & Sun 2pm; Fri 7pm.
Glorious 39 (12A): Tue & Thu 11.30am; Wed 2pm.
The Red Shoes (U): Fri, Sat & Sun 11.30am; Mon, Tue & Wed 6.40pm; Thu 4.15pm.
It's A Wonderful Life (U): Sun 6.30pm; Mon 11.30am; Tue 2pm; Thu 6.45pm.
Metropolitan Opera Live - Les Contes d'Hoffman (tbc): Sat 6pm.
Live Satellite Broadcast: Les Ballets Russes (tbc): Tue 6.15pm.
Bee Movie (U): Sat 11am.

HUNTINGDON CINEWORLD
0871 200 2000
Times from Friday, December 18, until Thursday, December 24.
Alvin And The Chipmunks 2 - The Squeakquel (U): Daily except Fri, Sat & Sun 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 5.30pm, 6.30pm, 7.30pm; Mon, Tue & Wed 8.30pm.
Avatar 3D (12A): Daily except Thu 1pm, 4.40pm, 8.20pm; Sat 9.30am; Thu 11.40am, 3.20pm, 7pm.
Avatar (12A): Daily 10.30am, 2pm, 5.30pm, Daily except Thu noon, 3.40pm, 7.20pm, 9pm; Thu 11am, 2.40pm, 6.20pm.
St Trinian's 2 - The Legend Of Fritton's Gold (PG): Daily 11.30am, 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, Daily except Thu 9.30pm.
Where The Wild Things Are (PG): Daily 11am, 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.25pm; Daily except Thu 8.50pm.
Planet 51 (U): Daily 12.30pm, 2.50pm, 5pm, 7.10pm.
Paranormal Activity (15): Daily except Thu 9.30pm; Fri, Sat & Sun 7.10pm.
Law Abiding Citizen (18): Daily except Thu 9.20pm; Fri, Sat & Sun 11.20am, 2pm, 4.40pm.
Nativity! (U): Daily 10.40am, 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm Daily except Thu 8.40pm.
The Twilight Saga - New Moon (12A): Daily except Thu 8.50pm; Fri, Sat & Sun 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm.
2012 (12A): Fri, Sat & Sun 8.30pm.
A Christmas Carol 3D (PG): Daily except Sat & Thu 10.40am.
A Christmas Carol (PG): Daily 11.10am, 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm.
G-Force (PG): Sat 10am.
The Santa Clause 3 - The Escape Clause (U): Sat 10.10am.
Aliens In The Attic (PG): Sat 10am.

The big film

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE (PG, 101 mins) Drama/Fantasy. Max Records, Catherine Keener, Pepita Emmerichs, Mark Ruffalo and the voices of James Gandolfini, Lauren Ambrose, Catherine O'Hara, Paul Dano. Director: Spike Jonze.

BASED on Maurice Sendak's beloved children's story, *Where The Wild Things Are* is not a sentimental coming-of-age story viewed through a rose-tinted lens.

Spike Jonze's visually-stunning adaptation unfolds through the eyes of an awkward 9-year-old boy, whose formative years are riddled with loneliness, despair and miscommunication. There is no pretence of happiness by the time we reach the conclusion of this magical odyssey. Life is a struggle and, in the absence of a father figure, the boy will invariably go off the rails many more times.

Jonze and co-writer Dave Eggers take Sendak's original story – a mere 10 sentences and 338 words – and expand it into a 101-minute fantasy that attests to the brutality of childhood and the power of the imagination to temporarily keep harsh reality at bay.

Pint-sized hero Max (Records) doesn't feel like his mother (Keener) or teenage sister Claire (Emmerichs) appreciate him. Frustrations come to a boil when the single parent brings home her new boyfriend (Ruffalo). Max stands on the kitchen table in his favourite white wolf costume and glares at his mother. When she demands he come down, Max makes a scene and growls: "I hate you, I'll eat you up!"

In the ensuing struggle, Max bites his mother and runs off into the night.

By chance, he finds a sailboat, which transports the lad to the island home of a race of hulking, furry creatures called the Wild Things, whose actions and emotions are totally unpredictable. Horned-nose Judith (voiced by O'Hara) threatens to eat Max, but he wins over the group's leader Carol (Gandolfini) by pretending to be an exiled king. The furry friends anoint him leader, and Max decrees they build a fort. The other creatures, including KW (Ambrose) and goat-like Alexander (Dano), do the lad's bidding but Max quickly learns that harmony isn't always possible.

Where The Wild Things Are is heart-breaking, anchored by a mesmerising lead performance from Records, whose face captures every flicker of despair and joy during Max's amazing adventure.

The creatures are brilliantly realised using a combination of giant costumes and digital effects, while the vocal performances capture the personalities of these untameable beasts, who share many of Max's woes. The Wild Things teach Max the value of friendship and the consequences of bending the truth. By the end of the film, as we choke back tears, the rotund leader realises how he wrong he was.

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Fragrant: above, Tree Lily® Nymph, below, Tree Lily® Robina

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How to get the best out of your Christmas tree

by Hannah Stephenson

If you buy a real Christmas tree, how can you make sure it stays looking its best over the festive season?

Some 30 per cent of people in the UK do buy the real thing each year, yet many are often left with more needles on the floor than on the tree within a week of putting it up, especially if they haven't chosen a non-drop variety such as the ever-popular Nordmann fir.

But if you give any tree the care it needs, it shouldn't drop too much, says Roger Hay, secretary of the British Christmas Tree Growers' Association.

"If you look after trees properly, most of them should look good throughout the festive season," he says.

"The spruces will drop before the fir trees or the pine trees, but if you look after them they should be good for six weeks."

Cut trees remain the most popular, and it is essential that they should be fresh when purchased. The needles should not be dull and dried up, the branches not brittle. If you gently shake the tree, the outer needles should not fall off.

When you've bought your tree, keep it outside in a cool, shaded place, preferably standing in water, until it is required indoors.

Before bringing it inside, cut about half an inch off the base of the trunk to open up the pores of the tree and then place it securely in a water-holding stand or wedge it in a bucket with pebbles, small stones or screwed-up newspaper and place it away from direct heat. Anyone who places the tree next to a radiator is asking for trouble.

Keep the container topped up with water every day, as trees can get through a pint a day.

About 8.5 million trees are sold in this country every Christmas, of which half are Nordmann firs. Hay prefers the Fraser fir (Abies fraseri) which is popular in the eastern United States – it is narrower than other trees and therefore more suitable for smaller rooms.

It's worth shopping around on the internet, as trees are likely to be a couple of pounds more expensive than they were last year, he adds.

"Look for growers who are situated in an isolated place away from urban centres. They are less likely to get a big retail market and you may get a better deal and a better tree from them," says Hay.

Remember that trees sold retail in urban areas may have come from out of town and may have been exposed to drying winds in transit. They could have been cut weeks earlier. Ask the retailer whether his trees are delivered either once at the beginning of the season or at different times during the period.

Some people may opt for a tree that will last for years.

"If you are looking for a tree you can plant in the garden afterwards, go for a container-grown tree. You can plant it out after Christmas and may be able to bring it in again next year," Hay says.

You should put it in a sheltered spot initially and slowly acclimatise it to the open before planting in its final home, making sure the root collar is at ground level and to water it in well.

Visit *www.bctga.co.uk* for more information.

BEST OF THE BUNCH
Poinsettia
No Christmas would be complete without at least one of these vibrant plants (proper name Euphorbia pulcherrima).

Traditionally they have red flowerhead leaves, although you can also buy them in pink and greenish white, which are becoming popular alternatives.

Poinsettias thrive in average temperatures of 18-24C and should not be placed in cold draughts. They enjoy bright, filtered light throughout their stages of growth, and maximum light during winter.

They should be watered thoroughly, but don't overdo it, and wait until the compost is fairly dry before watering again. If leaves begin to wilt, it will be either because the plant has been over or under-watered.

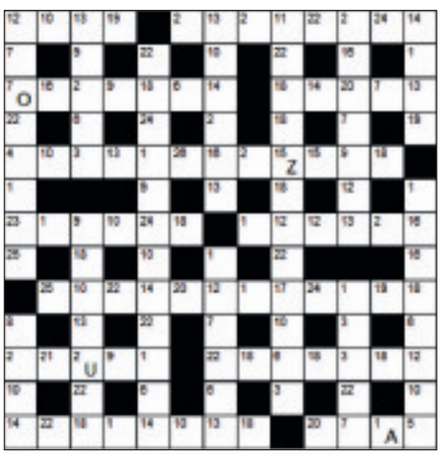
FOUR Ws

1. WHO...was British Prime Minister 1841-46?
WHAT...have Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes named their daughter?
WHERE...in Europe is the city of Zaporizhzhya?
WHEN...did the BBC TV show Grandstand first air?

2. WHO...plays the title role in Miss Potter, the film about Beatrix Potter?
WHAT...French general is mentioned in the French national anthem, La Marseillaise?
WHERE...in Europe has Traian Basescu been President since 2004?
WHEN...did Queen Victoria die?

3. WHO...is the subject of the Philip Glass music-drama *The Photographer*?
WHAT...are the two main languages of Finland?
WHERE...in Africa is the Rufiji River?
WHEN...did Switzerland became a full member of the United Nations?

Answers: 1. Robert Peel; Suri; Ukraine; 1958. **2.** Answers: Renee Zellweger; Bouille; Romania; 1901. **3.** Eadweard Muybridge; Finnish and Swedish; Tanzania; 2002.



■ Last week's solution.

Codeword 3: Can you crack the code and solve the word puzzle? Each number relates to a letter and every letter of the alphabet is used at least once.

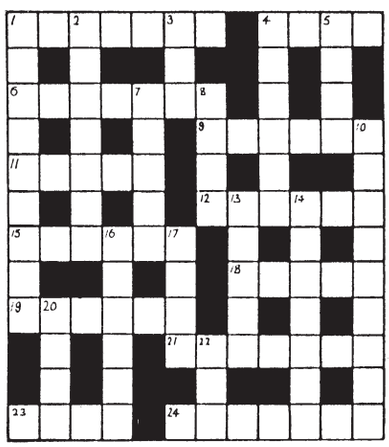
			2			1	4	7
		3		6	7	8		9
4		5		8			6	
	1		8	9				
9	5						3	6
				5	6		1	
	8			4		3		2
6		2	1	7		5		
7	9	4			3			

Sudoku 78:
Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once.

1	6	5	8	3	9	7	4	2
9	7	8	4	6	2	1	3	5
4	2	3	5	1	7	6	8	9
7	5	4	3	9	1	8	2	6
3	8	6	2	7	4	9	5	1
2	1	9	6	5	8	4	7	3
8	9	1	7	2	3	5	6	4
6	3	7	1	4	5	2	9	8
5	4	2	9	8	6	3	1	7

■ Last week's solution.

Crossword 2144



Across

1. The decline of French perfume. (7)
4. Does strongbox keep one out of danger? (4)
6. Swear how old? That's mean! (7)
9. Pudding comes following a bit of steak. (6)
11. Bill reaches high spot as a player. (5)
12. Fired by companion, I find fruit. (6)
15. Against a section of the poem? (6)
18. Leaves in pieces. (5)
19. Thanks to strike, I reach S. Pacific island. (6)
21. Detective sounded capital in the Far East. (7)
23. A crew have the last word. (4)
24. Pattern plate? It's full of holes! (7)

Down

1. Sketch a bit, then move slightly away. (4,5)
2. In some respect resembles a ghost. (7)
3. Keep finding fault with the horse. (3)
4. Month before space traveller meets musical group. (6)
5. Feel afraid of strange fare? (4)
7. A religious leader and artists found tapestry. (5)
8. Peer at jewel missing its top. (4)
10. Europeans reel from the sight of cake. (5,4)
13. Urge to lie badly about member. (5)
14. Mac mixes in rice to make sort of pottery. (7)
16. Gunners eat one at home with fruit. (6)
17. Heather loses a boy. (4)
20. A cat can be a tiny thing. (4)
22. Love at sight of single cereal. (3)

Solution to 2143 – Across: 1. Cast; 7. Banish; 8. Onus; 10. End; 11. Taunted; 12. Dye; 13. Maple; 17. Henry; 19. Emu; 21. Spectre; 23. Koi; 23. Left; 25. Nodded; 26. Peel. **Down:** 1. Crone; 2. Sou; 3. Mature; 4. Mistake; 5. Cheddar; 6. Gadget; 9. Stop; 14. Amusing; 15. Legends; 16. Beckon; 17. Hatter; 18. Noel; 20. Motel; 24. Exe.

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THE GUIDE | WEEKEND TV

SATURDAY

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast.**
10.00 **Saturday Kitchen.**
11.30 **Nigella's Christmas Kitchen.**
12.00 **BBC News;** Regional News; Weather.
12.15 **Football Focus.**
1.00 **Olympia International Horse Show.**
1.45 **Live Swimming.** Day two of the Duel in the Pool.
4.30 **Final Score.**
5.25 **BBC News;** Regional News; Weather.
5.45 **Merlin.**
6.35 **Strictly Come Dancing.** The final of the pro-celebrity contest.
7.40 **Casualty.** Ruth confronts her brother following the discovery he has been stealing from her to fund his drug addiction. May's frustrations lead her to play a career-threatening trick on Lenny.
8.30 **The National Lottery Draws.**
8.40 **Strictly Come Dancing.** As the competition draws to a close, the couples are given free rein to demonstrate their skills in a spectacular show dance and impress the voting public.
9.40 **Live at the Apollo.** Rhod Gilbert hosts the stand-up comedy show.
10.10 **BBC News;** Weather.
10.30 **Match of the Day.** Highlights of today's Premier League fixtures.
11.40 **The Football League Show.**
12.55 **Friday Night with Jonathan Ross.**

BBC2

6.00 **CBeebies: Me Too!**
6.20 **Big Cook Little Cook.**
6.40 **Brum.**
6.55 **Pingu.**
7.00 **CBBC: Zombie Hotel.**
7.25 **Sportsround.**
7.40 **Bear Behaving Badly.**
8.05 **The Basil Brush Show.**
8.30 **TMi.**
10.00 **Doctor Who: The Infinite Quest.**
10.45 **Pinky and Perky: It's Christmaaaas!**
11.00 **The Story of Tracy Beaker.**
11.30 **The Slammer.**
12.00 **BBC Switch: The Cut.**
12.25 **BBC Switch: The Cut.**
12.50 **BBC Switch: The 5:19 Show.**
1.20 **Greek.**
2.10 **Coast.**
2.30 **Grow Your Own Drugs for Christmas.**
3.30 **The Hairy Bakers' Christmas Special.**
4.30 **FILM: Dances with Wolves (1990).** Oscar-winning Western, starring Kevin Costner.
7.20 **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring's brother visits.
8.00 **A History of Scotland.** How the country has changed since World War One.
9.00 **FILM: Blade Runner: The Final Cut (1982).** Futuristic sci-fi thriller, starring Harrison Ford.
10.55 **Have I Got News for You Xmas 2008.**
11.25 **Defying Gravity.**
12.50 **BBC Learning Zone.**
1.50 **FILM: Macbeth (1948).**

ITV

6.00 **GMTV.**
9.25 **CITV: Horrid Henry.**
9.55 **Atomic Betty.**
10.10 **Art Attack.**
10.35 **FILM: Tooth (2004).** Children's fantasy adventure.
12.20 **News and Weather.**
12.24 **Anglia Weather.**
12.25 **Best Every Family Films.**
1.25 **FILM: Jack Frost (1998).** Family fantasy drama, starring Michael Keaton.
3.15 **FILM: Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (2004).** Live-action comedy adventure sequel, with Sarah Michelle Gellar.
5.00 **News and Weather.**
5.30 **Kids Do the Funniest Things.**
6.30 **Take That: The Circus Live.** The group's Wembley Stadium performances in July.
8.00 **Stars on the Street.** Documentary taking a look at the famous faces who have appeared in Coronation Street.
9.00 **FILM: Love Actually (2003).** Ten interlinked stories of people searching for and finding love. Richard Curtis's romantic comedy.
11.30 **ITV News and Weather.**
11.45 **FILM: Ready When You Are, Mr McGill (2003)** A TV director struggles with a disastrous day's filming. Satirical comedy.
1.35 **FILM: Igby Goes Down (2003).** Black comedy.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 **Planet Cook.**
6.30 **Yo Gabba Gabba.**
7.00 **World Sport.**
7.30 **Freesports on 4.**
8.00 **The Morning Line.**
8.55 **T4: Friends.**
9.25 **T4: Pixie Lott Takes Off: T4 Special.**
9.55 **T4: 4Music Favourites: Alicia Keys.**
10.25 **T4: Friends.**
11.00 **T4: The Hollyoaks Music Show.**
11.30 **T4: Sherlock Holmes: T4 Premiere Special.**
12.00 **T4: 90210.**
1.00 **T4: Scrubs.**
1.30 **Channel 4 Racing.**
3.30 **My First Year.**
4.00 **My First Year.**
4.30 **My First Year.**
5.00 **Come Dine with Me.** Five instalments of the culinary competition.
7.30 **Channel 4 News.**
8.00 **Dover Castle: A Time Team Special.** Tony Robinson examines the castle's recent extraordinary restoration.
9.00 **Wife Swap: The Last Episode.** Bentley-driving lady-of-leisure Torre, swaps with mum of seven Sam Dale who lives on a council estate.
10.05 **Wife Swap: The Celebrity Episode.**
11.10 **Wife Swap: The First Episode.**
12.15 **4Music: Live from Abbey Road.**
1.20 **FILM: The Cheaters (1945).** Christmas comedy, starring Joseph Schildkraut.

five

6.00 **Sunrise.**
7.00 **Angels of Jarm.**
7.05 **Milkshake! Bop Box.**
7.10 **Fireman Sam.**
7.25 **Rupert Bear.**
7.35 **Hana's Helpline.**
7.45 **Milkshake! Music Box.**
7.50 **Make Way for Noddy.**
8.05 **Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures.**
8.10 **The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky.**
8.25 **The Mr Men Show.**
8.40 **Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs.**
9.00 **Olivia.**
9.15 **Little Princess.**
9.30 **Gerald McBoing Boing.**
10.00 **NFL UK.**
11.00 **Gadget Show: Gadget of the Decade.**
12.00 **Britain's Best Brain.**
1.00 **Animal Rescue Squad.**
1.30 **FILM: The Gnome-Mobile (1967).** Children's fantasy, starring Walter Brennan.
3.10 **Five News.**
3.15 **FILM: Meet the Santas (2005).** Fantasy comedy sequel, with Steve Guttenberg.
5.10 **Knight Rider.**
6.45 **Five News.**
6.50 **NCIS.**
7.40 **CSI: Grissom's Greatest.** Four episodes of the forensic drama series.
11.40 **Women Who Kill.** Teenage killer Jennifer Twist.
12.10 **SuperCasino.**

Cranford
BBC1, Sunday, 9pm

Take That: The Circus Live
ITV, Saturday, 6.30pm

Come Dine With Me
Channel Four, Saturday, 5pm

Dirty Dancing
five, Sunday, 9pm

SUNDAY

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast.**
7.45 **Match of the Day.**
9.00 **The Andrew Marr Show.**
10.00 **Fern Britton Meets Sheila Hancock.**
11.00 **Country Tracks.**
12.00 **BBC News.**
12.05 **Car Booty.**
12.50 **Match of the Day Live.** Newcastle United v Middlesbrough.
3.05 **EastEnders.**
5.00 **The First Christmas: A Songs of Praise Special.**
5.40 **Life.** Hamadryas baboons, Japanese macaques and capuchins are among the creatures explored as the focus turns to apes and monkeys.
6.30 **BBC News;** Regional News; Weather.
7.00 **Countryfile at Christmas.** Matt Baker and Julia Bradbury head to Adam Henson's farm in the Cotswolds for a festive dinner.
8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the experts head to Abbotsford.
9.00 **Cranford.**
10.30 **BBC News;** Regional News; Weather.
10.55 **FILM: Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls (1995)** The eccentric pet detective is coaxed out of self-imposed exile to travel to Africa and offer his expertise in the search for a sacred white bat. Comedy sequel.
12.25 **Sign Zone: Grow Your Own Drugs for Christmas.**

BBC2

6.00 **CBeebies: Me Too!**
6.20 **Big Cook Little Cook.**
6.40 **Brum.**
6.55 **Pingu.**
7.00 **CBBC: Uncle Max.**
7.10 **OOglies.**
7.30 **Arthur's Perfect Christmas.**
8.25 **Shaun the Sheep.**
8.30 **Bear Behaving Badly.**
9.00 **The Sorcerer's Apprentice.**
10.00 **Something for the Weekend.**
11.30 **FILM: Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993).** Animated fantasy, with the voice of Chris Sarandon.
12.40 **FILM: One Magic Christmas (1985).** Family drama, starring Mary Steenburgen.
2.05 **Ski Sunday.**
2.50 **Live Olympia International Horse Show.** The penultimate day at the Olympia Grand Hall.
4.50 **FILM: The Eagle Has Landed (1976).** British World War Two spy adventure, with Michael Caine and Donald Sutherland.
7.00 **James May's Toy Stories.** James builds a full-size house out of Lego.
8.00 **Top Gear.** The hosts bid to prove that cars can be art.
9.00 **Oz and Hugh Drink to Christmas.** Oz Clarke and Hugh Dennis sample festive drinks.
10.00 **Have I Got News for You.** With guest host Jeremy Clarkson.
10.30 **Match of the Day 2.**
11.30 **Dara O Briain Talks Funny: Live in London.**
12.30 **Room 101.**

ITV

6.00 **GMTV.**
9.25 **CITV: Paz.**
9.35 **Supernormal.**
9.50 **Horrid Henry.**
10.05 **Tricky Quickies.**
10.10 **Coronation Street.**
12.25 **News and Weather.**
12.30 **FILM: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989).** Comedy, starring Chevy Chase.
2.20 **Take That: The Circus Live.** The group's Wembley Stadium performances in July.
3.50 **FILM: Johnny English (2003).** Spy comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson and Ben Miller.
5.30 **News and Weather.**
6.00 **You've Been Framed and Famous!** Harry Hill showcases some of the best celebrity lookalike clips sent in by viewers.
7.00 **Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Christmas Special.** Radio 2 stars Chris Evans and Terry Wogan are first up in this festive special raising money for charity. They are followed by Coleen and Maureen Nolan. Chris Tarrant hosts.
8.00 **Ad of the Decade.** Ben Shephard narrates a countdown of the 20 greatest TV commercials of the past 10 years, featuring interviews with the stars of the ads and a host of celebrities.
9.00 **The Fattest Man in Britain.**
11.00 **ITV News and Weather.**
11.15 **FILM: Analyze This (1999).** Comedy, with Robert De Niro.
1.05 **Quincy ME.**

CHANNEL 4

6.20 **Planet Cook.**
6.40 **Yo Gabba Gabba.**
7.05 **Ocean Race.**
8.00 **Beach Volleyball.**
8.55 **T4: Friends.** Joey gets competitive.
9.25 **T4: Friends.**
9.55 **T4: Hollyoaks.**
12.25 **T4: 90210.**
1.20 **T4: Friends.**
1.50 **T4: Ugly Betty.**
2.50 **T4: Friends.**
3.20 **T4: The Simpsons.** Marge regales the kids with how she and Homer met and fell in love.
3.50 **T4: The Simpsons.**
4.25 **Deal or No Deal.**
5.15 **FILM: Miracle on 34th Street (1994).** Christmas family drama remake, with Richard Attenborough.
7.25 **Channel 4 News.**
7.55 **3 Minute Wonder: 12 Days of Christmas.** A short festive-themed film.
8.00 **FILM: The Family Man (2000).** A businessman experiences the life he would have lived if he had not abandoned his girlfriend. Drama, with Nicolas Cage.
10.20 **Father Ted.** Fathers Dougal and Ted have their worst Christmas ever by getting lost in a store's lingerie department, leaving them in a highly embarrassing predicament.
11.30 **Sean Lock: Stand Up.** A performance from London's Hammersmith Apollo.
12.35 **Cecil B DeMille: American Epic.**

five

6.00 **Sunrise.**
7.00 **Milkshake!**
10.00 **Shake!: Snobs.**
10.35 **Wizards of Waverly Place.**
11.10 **Hannah Montana.**
11.45 **Zoo Days.**
11.50 **Crusoe.**
1.40 **FILM: Scrooge (1951).** Charles Dickens' fantasy, starring Alastair Sim.
3.25 **Five News.**
3.30 **FILM: Matilda (1996).** Children's fantasy comedy, starring Mara Wilson.
5.30 **Heads or Tails.**
6.30 **The Gadget Show: Winter Special.**
6.55 **FILM: Christmas with the Kranks (2004).** A couple decide to steer clear of the usual festive celebrations in favour of a holiday in the sun, prompting their disappointed friends to pull out all the stops to get them to change their minds. Comedy, starring Jamie Lee Curtis, Tim Allen and Dan Aykroyd.
9.00 **FILM: Dirty Dancing (1987).** Romance blossoms as a dance instructor teaches a naive teenager about life and love. Drama, starring Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey.
11.05 **FILM: An American Haunting (2005).** Premiere. An evil spirit haunting a 19th-century family is linked to a witch's curse. Fact-based horror, starring Donald Sutherland and Sissy Spacek.
12.50 **NFL Live.**

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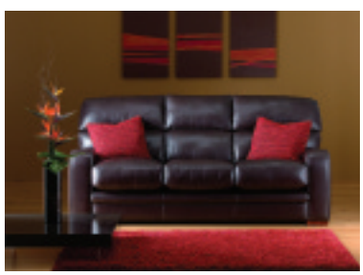

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PROPERTY

Lovely family home has period features

THERE are period features in abundance at this Grade II listed building in Downham Road, Ely.

The beautiful property offers an entrance porch, cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast room, dining room and living room with feature fireplace.

Upstairs is the master bedroom, two further double bedrooms, a further bedroom/study, a bathroom and shower room.

A detached garage is also provided, and the rear garden is filled with a range of shrubs and trees. It also offers a smart patio area.

This attractive family home is situated within walking distance of the city centre. It is on the market for £350,000. Contact the agents, TuckerGardner, on (01353) 616130.

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Stylish village semi boasts modern kitchen

THIS modern semi-detached home stands in Ely Road, Queen Adelaide.

It provides beautifully presented accommodation, which includes a stunning living/dining room and a modern kitchen.

There is also a bathroom, three bedrooms, a garage and further parking.

The landscaped garden at the back of the house is mainly laid to lawn, with a smart patio.

This property is on the market for £169,950.

To arrange a viewing, contact Cheffins on (01353) 654900.

Three-storey townhouse with enclosed courtyard garden

ON the market for £275,000 is this superb three-storey townhouse. It is in Cambridge Road, Ely, within walking distance of the city's amenities.

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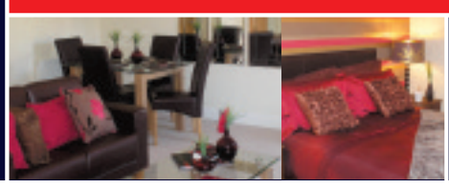

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Make way for Cubism

Cube will kickstart year

SMALL cars were largely behind November's huge UK-wide showroom sales boost, and more new models will see the surge continue into the new year.

With official new-car registrations up 57.8 per cent on the November 2008 figure, and manufacturers such as Ford, Vauxhall and Peugeot hailing the success of their superminis, January could kick off a boom year for the industry.

Keeping the sales charts in good shape will be the Cube, a much-anticipated new model from Nissan which should quickly achieve cult status when it goes on sale here in January.

Named as a design icon in its own right by the London Design Museum, which labels the Cube as "one of the 50 cars that changed the world", the quirky runabout has been a million-seller in Japan.

That will change when Nissan puts just 2,000 up for grabs next year, with the first 100 examples labelled LDN special editions, priced at £14,600 and all finished in a unique chocolate colour with matching suede interior trim.

The other 1,900 examples will come in two trim levels, priced from £14,000, and get Nissan's 1.6-litre, 108bhp petrol engine that returns 42.8mpg overall.

A 1.5-litre diesel unit will be offered from next May.

But it's the look, and what the Cube is all about, that should rocket it to the level of success not seen since the first BMW Minis were put on sale.

The Nissan Cube: Five-seater.

Nissan says the five-seater places function ahead of form with a lounge-style cabin and curve-themed interior design.

A large triple-layered glass roof comes as standard, together with rear privacy glass, Bluetooth connectivity and cruise control.

Nissan's UK managing director Paul Willcox can't wait for the Cube to arrive.

"Here we have a car that will not only meet the functional requirements of a huge range of new car buyers, but also capture their imagination," he says.

Inside the Cube: Wavy lines are designed to suggest the calm of a flowing river.

Scrappage reduces CO2 output

THE average CO2 emissions of a car bought through the scrappage scheme was 133g/km, 10 per cent below the overall new car market average and 27 per cent below a scrapped car's emissions.

Commenting on the data, Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) chief executive Paul Everitt said: "Scrappage continues to have a positive impact on vehicle registrations, contributing to the 57.6 per cent increase in November's registrations. It has helped generate consumer confidence, and SMMT urges Government to sustain the recovery and support the long-term future of the motor industry."

The Scrappage Scheme accounted for 21.6 per cent of all new car sales.

C30 1.6D DRIVe wins eco-award

THE new Volvo C30 1.6D DRIVe with Start/Stop has been awarded TheGreenCar Website.co.uk's Green Car of the Year.

The Volvo C30 DRIVe stormed ahead in the online poll beating rivals like the Toyota Prius and BMW 316d.

Emitting only 99g/km of CO2, the new Volvo C30 1.6D DRIVe with Start/Stop not only qualifies for free annual Vehicle Excise Duty, but offers up to 74.3 mpg on a combined cycle resulting in about 850 miles on one tank of fuel. These eco credentials make it one of the most fuel efficient vehicles in its class without compromising on style and comfort.

On top of receiving an overwhelming majority of votes from visitors to the site, the Volvo C30 DRIVe was also unanimously voted green car of the year by the motoring journalists behind TheGreenCar Website.co.uk.

TheGreenCarWebsite.co.uk's editor,

Eco-ace: The Volvo C30 1.6D DRIVe with Stop/Start.

Faye Sunderland, said: "The C30 1.6D DRIVe with Start/Stop technology is genuinely a fantastic addition to the 'green scene' this year. In such a short space of time, Volvo successfully slashed its emissions and as a relative newcomer in the green car market, it is impressive to see the Swedish carmaker make such strong progress in a short time. A deserved winner, Volvo can afford to be very proud of the C30 DRIVe as its flagship green model."

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RENAULT

The Alfa GT: 'All that's good about Alfa wrapped up in one sexy skin'.

How an average new car becomes a great used one

THE recently-released Renault Laguna coupe is surprisingly stylish, with a rear end to rival any Alfa Romeo, says *Used Car Expert* magazine editor Matthew Tumbridge.

"But at a minimum £21,000 new, it needs to be more than pretty," he says.

"There's a lot that is fabulous about it – the cruise, the economy, the gadgets – but a few things that are not quite good enough, mainly the handling.

"Wait 18 months, though, and the thumping early depreciation will reduce the price to a level where the flaws seem petty.

"In this way, an average car suddenly becomes a great car. This happens at different ages with different motors, but there are loads of examples out there of cars that weren't quite good enough to justify their early price."

Tumbridge recommends three such cars which have become under-valued used deals.

■ 2008 MAZDA5: "Overall, a classy and practical package which mainly holds its value well. The 2.0 petrol has plenty of power but is much less popular, so prices are volatile," he says.

Used Car Expert magazine advises that the 2.0 Sport petrol flagship model is around £16,000, even nearly-new. But it will lose from 12 per cent to 36 per cent and cost around £10,000 to £12,000 after a year, depending on how desperate the seller is.

■ 2008 ALFA ROMEO GT: "Imagine all the good things about the firm's 156 wrapped up in one of the sexiest skins on UK roads, and you have Alfa's GT.

"Almost all of those on the used market are diesel, so when you find a petrol it is an opportunity," states Tumbridge. *Used Car Expert* magazine says the GT petrol is £20,000 when new, but can be picked up at 12 to 18 months old for 23-33 per cent off – which means prices as low as £12,000.

The Mazda5: Classy and practical.

■ 2008 VAUXHALL ASTRA: "A major Vauxhall step forward, with lots of clever technology, it is a good alternative to the Ford Focus. But the petrol Turbos are too fruity for most, so prices are soft," reckons Tumbridge.

Used Car Expert magazine says 16-valve petrol Turbos can drop in the first year from prices of £18,000 and £20,000 to as low £12,000 – nearly 51 per cent off list.

Clever: The Vauxhall Astra.

Hit: The Mégane Renaultsport 250 will hold 41% of its value.

Mégane Renaultsport 250 will retain value and faith

RENAULT'S new Mégane RenaultSport 250 is expected to be a hit with used-car buyers, thanks to reasonable sales exclusivity, plus sporty handling and unique styling, say the data pricing experts at Glass's.

Engineered to take on the C-segment's hot hatches, including the Vauxhall Astra VXR, Mazda3 MPS, Volkswagen Golf GTi, Seat Leon Cupra R and the Ford Focus RS, Glass's predicts the hot version of the Mégane three-door Coupe will be one of Renault's most sought-after models on the second-hand market.

"As a halo model for the French brand, the Mégane RenaultSport gets unique styling, including beefier wheel arches, side-skirts, sporty bumpers and a central rear tailpipe," explains Jason King, head of market intelligence at Glass's.

"Renault's 2.0-litre turbo is surprisingly refined, and power is easily transferred to the road with minimum fuss while producing a fantastic exhaust noise.

"The Mégane will offer a very compelling argument for used-car buyers seeking a hot hatch that is fast without being too furious."

According to Glass's, the newcomer is expected to retain 41 per cent of its new cost after three years and 60,000 miles.

Mazda's free aftercare

MAZDA UK has launched 'Call Mazda First', a free accident aftercare service for customers involved in a vehicle accident or when victims of automobile theft.

With 'Call Mazda First', Mazda drivers simply make one call and their claim will be managed by professionals who will liaise with insurers, ensure a courtesy car is provided, and minimise the claims procedure – all free of charge.

All accidents, regardless of fault, are directed through a Mazda Approved Accident Repair Centre, ensuring that any repairs are to Mazda standards, preserving original build integrity and warranty eligibility.

The developments are part of the Mazda Accident Aftercare programme, launched in August, which is already starting to show growth.

The nearest Mazda dealership is at EMG Motor Group in Cambridge.

Mazda: Hassle-free accidents.

Caddy is 'Van of the Year'

VOLKSWAGEN'S small van range, the Caddy and Caddy Maxi, has again been successful at the prestigious *What Van?* magazine annual Van of the Year Awards, collecting the coveted title of Editor's Choice for the second successive year, with particular praise going to Volkswagen's DSG gearbox.

What Van? magazine is Britain's largest van buyer's guide and the verdicts for the awards represent the distilled experience of the long-serving editorial team.

Commenting on the Caddy's success, *What Van?* editor Neil McIntee explained: "Volkswagen's Caddy is a versatile light van with enviable build quality for its market sector. The semi-automatic DSG transmission mated to the 1.9-litre TDI engine is something that comes with the *What Van?* seal of approval and is one of the reasons the Caddy has picked up the Editor's Choice Award for the second year in a row."

For more details of the Caddy range, or to find your nearest Volkswagen Van Centre, visit *www.volkswagen-vans.co.uk* or call 0800 7171317.

Caddy: DSG gearbox praise

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01223 833819

Ford Ka 1.3 Style
2005, metallic panther black, low mileage, long tax & MoT, lady owner, service history, colour coded bodywork, excellent condition
£2,895 ono
01638 742092
07767 386263

Ford

Ford Mondeo Titanium X 2.2
TDCI, 2005, Metallic Panther Black, 41,000 miles, 6 CD, Climate, Cruise Control, E/W, MOT, FSH, Pristine condition
£8,950 ono
01223 512605
07725 004748

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Jaguar XKR 4.0 Supercharged
2 dr Coupe, 2001, Blue, 45,700 miles, FSH, recent service, all electrics, CD, Alarm, Alloys, Immob, Leather, a/b, PAS, MoT, Tax
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07958 763691

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Mazda 626 Atlantis 1800cc
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Mercedes

Mercedes C230 Komp Elegance
1998, 149k, ABS, A\C, E/W, sunroof, 12 months full MoT, recent full service, tax, FSH (M Benz) very good condition
£2,250 ono
01763 287209

Mercedes Estate
2.6L, 7 seats, semi-auto, 53 reg'd, 68k, ABS, A\C, Alarm, Alloys, MoT 10 mths, E/M, Tax, Royal blue, cream cloth interior, FSH, just serviced, retractable dog guard, high spec, truly excellent condition
£11,250 ovno
07971 276066

Mini

Mini Cooper S
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07888 745692
01799 524271

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NISSAN MICRA 1.3i GX
1996 (P), 93k miles, FSH, MoT Dec 2010, 6 mths tax, s/r, CD, excellent condition
£850
01223 860170
07881 633006. T

Other Makes

Perodua Kelisa EXi
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07970 003194

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01223 478164
07792 064183 .T

Renault Twingo Dynamique
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£6,300 ono
01440 714949

Rover-MG

Rover 416 I
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07973 117993

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07515 102134 T.

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01954 210720

Vauxhall Astra Twintop 1.8
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£9,200 ono
01480 431161

Vauxhall Cavalier GLS 2L
1995, Maroon, 99,000 miles, ABS, Alloys, Airbag, E/W, MOT May '10, S/Roof, PAS, Part service history
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01763 248640 o.
07515 102134 T.

Volkswagen Golf 1.4
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07932 044843

Volkswagen Polo 1.4CL
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£650
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07801 752897

VW POLO 1.4L
1999 (V), 5 door, PAS, radio/ cass, airbag, s/r, 69,000 miles, MoT Dec 2010, www.smallcarsonly.co.uk
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10 BUSINESS SERVICES

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12 PROPERTY

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Garages / Parking

LOCK up, secure garage /storage, Littleport, £13 pw Tel: 07712 434613

13 PUBLIC NOTICES

Overseas Property

BULGARIAN properties for sale from £3000. Interest-free repayment scheme available. Contact Pbg-Bulgaria 07983 345544 for more information.

Property for Sale

SOHAM 2 bedroom modern house, no chain, £115,000 freehold Tel: 01353 727000

Public Notices

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
IN BANKRUPTCY
CAMBRIDGE COUNTY COURT

No. 116 of 2004 **RE: KELLY ANN BIGINTON** I intend to pay within four months from 19 January 2010 (being the last day for proving) the first and final dividend of 0.8 p/£. Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must do so by 19 January 2010 otherwise they will be excluded from the dividend. The required proof of debt form is available on the Insolvency Service website (www.insolvency.gov.uk, select "Forms" and then form 6.37). Alternatively, you can contact my office at 2nd Floor, Sunley House, Bedford Park, CROYDON, CR9 1TX telephone 02086 67+8012 to supply a form.

P Cropper, Official Receiver and Trustee, NDU Croydon, 2nd Floor, Sunley House, Bedford Park, Croydon, CR9 1TX

Public Notices

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION NOT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT
(Regulation 5 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (Land Drainage Improvement Works) Regulations 1999 as amended by SI 2005/1399 and SI 2006/618

South Level Patch Piling Improvement Works

The Environment Agency gives notice that it proposes to carry out improvement works to the flood defences on the River Great Ouse between Ely and Denver at the following locations:

Right Bank - Modney Hall (NGR: TL 60169 96288) to Ship Inn (NGR: TL 60739 91838)

Left Bank - Immediate vicinity of Ship Inn (NGR: TL 60713 91913)

Right Bank - Immediate vicinity of Branch Bridge (NGR: TL 57324 84535)

Right Bank - Clayway Farm (NGR: TL 57017 83033) to Cuckoo Bridge (NGR: TL 56011 80396)

The proposed improvement works will commence in January 2010 and finish mid March 2010 and will involve the following:

- Replacing/repairing damaged sections of asbestos sheet piling with more durable steel piles in order to prevent further erosion to the toe of the flood embankments.
- Restoring eroded sections of the embankments behind the new steel piles with a compacted earth infill.

The Environment Agency considers that the improvement works are not likely to have significant effects on the environment and does not intend to prepare an environmental statement in respect of them. Further information in the form of a Low Risk Project Summary File Note is available from the address below.

Any person wishing to make representations in relation to the likely environmental effects of the proposed improvement works should do so, in writing, to the address specified below, within 28 days of the date of publication of this notice.

John Faulkner (Project Manager)
Environment Agency
Bromholme Lane
Brampton
Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire
PE28 4NE

Family Notices
Tel: (01223) 43 43 43

14 PERSONAL SERVICES

11 SITUATIONS VACANT

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01353 667916

Personal Services

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ANGEL and friends escorts. Tel: 07040 901535.

ANNA pretty young escort, Ely area, Tel: 07951 037092

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SAM mature, fun blonde escort, Ely area. Tel: 07858 644434.

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The successful candidate will be hands on as the responsibilities will be to cover all aspects of the accounting function including ledgers, cashflow, VAT, payroll and the completion of monthly accounts.

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The role will be to support the Company Accountant and the successful applicant will therefore be an experienced accounts person covering purchase and sales ledgers and payroll and maintaining Human Resources records.

The remuneration on offer will reflect the importance of the positions.

Closing Date: 31st December 2009.

Applicants should send a C.V. and covering letter to Barry Bowden at Frans House, Fenton Way, Chatteris PE16 6UP or e mail barry.bowden@ermsuk.com

Further information about the company can be found on our Website www.ermsuk.com

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THE NATIONAL HORSERACING MUSEUM
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(Salary negotiable according to experience in region of £20,000 pa)

The National Horseracing Museum is an independent Museum currently attracting 11,500 visitors a year with an established and highly successful Museum Shop, Café and Equine Tours Programme.

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- Managing, developing and marketing all aspects of the Museum Shop's retail business.
- Managing the Front of House Operation.
- Undertaking the management and development of our popular Equine Tours programme.
- Audience Development would also be an important part of this post.

If you are highly motivated, have the proven retail management and buying experience essential to this post, you may be the person we are looking for.

For further information and full job description please contact Graham Snelling, e-mail: admin@nhrm.co.uk or telephone 01638 667333 Ext 4. Applications to include your CV, a covering letter and contact details of 2 referees should be sent to admin@nhrm.co.uk or by post marked 'Private and Confidential' to Graham Snelling, The National Horseracing Museum, 99 High Street, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 8JH.

Closing date: 8th January 2010

Antwerp House Practice PA

Dynamic efficient individual required to lead admin systems.
Thorough knowledge of Microsoft Office essential.
Will assist Director in admin management of several practices, diary management, preparation of lectures, marketing, and setting up new admin systems.

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For more information or to apply, please visit www.rethink.org/jobs

Alternatively, you can call 0845 456 0455 or email hr.southern@rethink.org quoting reference SR/4628.

Closing date: 8th January 2010.

Rethink is passionate about creating a diverse workforce and positively encourages applications from under-represented communities.

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Cambridge News

jobFAIR 2010

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WEDNESDAY 20th JANUARY 2010

10am - 5.30pm

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Your CV

When you send your CV off to a potential employer, remember that you won't be the only one. Hundreds of other people could be applying for the job as well.

So what are you going to do to make you stand out from the crowd? Why should an employer take a chance on you instead of someone else?

Your CV is your first real chance to sell yourself to a potential employer. Most employers will scan through a CV in about 30 seconds so you need to grab their attention from the start - and make them want to invite you for an interview.

There are five main areas to consider when writing your CV:

• Make sure your CV looks the part. Your CV should look clean and tidy - don't scrawl it out on a piece of A4 paper. If you haven't got access to a PC or printer, ask a friend or use your local library. Use a good quality paper and steer clear of fancy borders and front covers.

• Watch out for silly spelling and grammar mistakes. They make you look lazy and show employers that you don't really care. It's not difficult to do a spell check on your PC and if you're really stuck then don't just guess, reach for a dictionary. Get a friend to read through your CV for you - a second opinion is always useful.

• Make sure your CV is well organised. When you list your previous jobs, make sure the dates are correct and try not to leave any gaps. If you took time out to go travelling then say so - employers won't mark you down just because you've tried something new.

• Don't waffle. Remember that employers don't have time to read every word of your CV. Long paragraphs and sentences put people off, so try bullet-points to break up text. Make sure your CV is no longer than two pages long - employers don't want your life history, they just want to see that you've got what it takes to do the job.

• Don't list any failures. Employers have enough trouble finding someone who is right for the job - they don't need help finding reasons not to employ you. If you have to include a mistake from your past, make sure you show the employer that you learnt something from the experience.

Keep it simple

Personal details
Start off with your full name, address, date of birth, home and mobile phone numbers, email address and nationality. If you are offered an interview, the employer will want to get hold of you so give him as many options as possible.

Summary/professional profile
This is the No1 area for selling yourself. Set out your main skills and personal qualities but keep it interesting and tight - one paragraph should do to cover everything.

Education and qualifications
List your qualifications and education history, with the most recent first. You don't need to list the grades for each exam you have passed unless they were exceptional results - simply listing the number and type of exams you've passed is fine. Also, list any relevant professional organisations you belong to and training courses you have been on.

Work experience
Start with your most recent position and work backwards, giving addresses along with start and finish dates. Set out your main responsibilities, duties and most importantly achievements, along with any skills you picked up or improvements you made while you were there. This is a really important section in your CV so make it count - but don't waffle.

If you have not had a full-time job before, detail any part-time jobs you may have held or any placement you have been on.

Other skills
Set out any computer skills you may have and the software you are most familiar with. Can you type, do shorthand or speak a foreign language fluently? If you have a driving licence, let the employer know. If it's clean, tell them.

Interests & hobbies
Briefly list what you get up to in your spare time. Put down any positions you hold in clubs or associations, along with any responsibilities and achievements.

References
Make sure you have at least two people (including one from your previous or current job) who will tell an employer what a thoroughly nice person you are and what a potential asset to the company you would be.

If you want to list them now make sure you include their name, job title, postal & e-mail address and contact phone numbers. Alternatively, just put "Available on request" so the employer knows to follow up references at a later date.

Add a covering letter

The main aim of a covering letter is to encourage an employer to give you a chance. You want them to read your CV, so sell it to them. You should always enclose a covering letter when applying for a job - most employers won't consider you unless you do.

A covering letter should let the employer know why you are interested in the job and why you think you can do it.

The hints and tips below should point you in the right direction:

• Keep it simple. A covering letter should be short and to the point - no more than six paragraphs.

• Mention the job. If you are replying to an advert, mention what the job is and where you saw it. The company may be advertising for other positions and it may not be clear which job you are applying for.

• Sell yourself. Explain why you are the perfect candidate for the job. Show off your strengths and experience. Refer to your CV - if it goes missing then at least an employer will know that you've sent it.

• Check it for mistakes. A silly spelling mistake in a covering letter is likely to cost you your chance of getting an interview. Also, make sure it is addressed to the right person in the right department.

A covering letter can be just as important as a CV in getting you an interview. It's your first point of contact with your potential employer - so make it count.

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» **FOOTBALL:** Youth round-up

Bowles flushes out Cottenham

Cottenham Utd 4
Haddenham Rov 5
CAMBRIDGE & DIST COLTS LGE, UNDER-14B

HADDENHAM started the better, creating a couple of good chances but failing to take them.

Then Ryan Bowles arrived at the back post to score, and Jake Bartolozzi flicked in at the near post from a corner.

Cottenham then scored from a corner themselves to make it 2-1 at the break.

United soon levelled after the restart, but Rovers scored when Charlie Russell shot from distance and then Josh Robinson broke away to restore Rovers' two-goal advantage.

Cottenham drew level again before Haddenham had the last laugh when Bowles chipped into the far corner for what turned out to be the winner.

Haddenham: Richard Padmore, John Falconer, Jake Bartolozzi, Joe Snooks, Felix Peck, Charlie Russell, Matt Morton, Kieran Drummond, Ryan Bowles, Josh Robinson, Rowan Shergold, Ryan Roberts, Tyrell Barrett, Liam Roberts, Theo Hall.

Huntingdon Rowdies 0
Littleport Tn 3
CAMBRIDGE & DIST COLTS LGE, UNDER-15B

LITTLEPORT maintained their league position with a good win at Rowdies.

They took the lead after only three minutes when a good cross from Will Crisp was met first time by Tom Beresford.The second came minutes later with the same two players combining, and Littleport's third goal was a header from Carl Lightfoot.

The second half was tight, but Littleport deserved to win the game to maintain second place in their league.

Littleport: Josh Brown, Joe Murfitt, Charlie Bowditch, Ryan Woods, Ben Hawkins, Will Crisp, Carl Lightfoot, Callum Mackender, Luke Thompson, Tom Beresford, Jake Kennedy, Cameron James, Ben Jewitt, Alister Musa.

Cambridge Allstars 1
Haddenham Rov 2
9V9 UNDER-11 LEAGUE, DIVISION A

HADDENHAM Rovers ended 2009 in style with their third straight league win.

In a competitive first half, Allstars started the brighter, forcing Haddenham into some resolute defending, but Haddenham soon stamped their authority on the game with Jake Alsop and Ollie Johnson forcing the keeper into some smart saves.

Rovers took the lead on 19 minutes when Johnson's slide-rule pass found Josh Akinwumi on the edge of the box, who cut inside the defender and drilled home from 10 yards. After a lengthy injury stoppage, Haddenham went 2-0 up just before the break when Akinwumi was again at hand to flick home Josh Lowe's corner.

Haddenham had several chances to extend their lead in the second half. Lowe ripped through the defence but shot just wide, and captain Alsop narrowly missed with a long-range strike. Allstars scored with 10 minutes remaining after a defensive mix-up but Haddenham comfortably held on for a notable victory.

Haddenham: W Darlington, J Alsop, C Tunnell, K Petty, J Lowe, J Alsop, M Wright, C Augustus, J Akinwumi, O Johnson.

Witchford 1 Bar Hill 3
9V9 UNDER-11 LEAGUE, DIVISION B

WITCHFORD fell to their first league defeat of the season in a keenly contested match. Both sides came into the game undefeated and it was Bar Hill who started brighter.

But Witchford broke the deadlock, somewhat against the run of play, when a through ball found its way to Callum Munden on the right of the penalty area, and his shot eluded the keeper. Bar Hill's response was immediate, with a player crashing a left-foot volley into the back of the net to make it 1-1 at half time.

Witchford had a penalty saved after the break, and the visitors took advantage, scoring a second goal and put the game to bed with another two minutes from time.

Witchford: Alex Matcham, Sam Brewer, Adam Jay, Joe-Joe Corlito, Henry Border, Joe Leyland, Ben Lymer, Ryan Pettitt, Jack Curtis, Callum Munden, Luca Philo.

SEYMOUR IN THICK OF SOHAM'S CUP SUCCESS

Alconbury 1 Soham Tn 3
CAMBRIDGE & DIST COLTS LEAGUE CUP, UNDER-17 SEMI-FINAL

SOHAM booked their place in the cup final after emerging on top in a scrappy affair.

Town looked the stronger team right from the start, although Bury were not without chances, but it was the visitors who opened the scoring after 10 minutes when Ryan Saban was brought down in the area and Simon Murfitt converted from the spot.

Soham had numerous chances to extend their advantage before the break but the score remained 1-0 at the interval.

After the break the game got a bit sloppy and Alconbury managed to score an equaliser, but Sam Goodge finished a good move started by James Seymour to put Town 2-1 up.

And after a number of squandered chances, Town settled matters when Seymour's deflected shot sailed into the net.

Soham: Charlie Wills, Tyler Broker, Adam Newson, Simon Murfitt, Michal Rola, Ryan Saban, Sam Goodge, Ryan Collins, James Seymour, Josh Heaps, Liam Lewis, Dan Whitwell, Elliot Drewery, Blake Kneeshaw, Josh Nunn.

Witchford 3 Walpole Warriors 3
(Witchford won 3-2 on penalties)
CAMBRIDGE & DIST COLTS LEAGUE CUP, UNDER-12

A TENSE cup match saw Witchford taking the lead early on with a fine goal by Matt Ashman.

Walpole soon took advantage and equalised, then went into the lead by scoring twice more in the second half.

Witchford played some great football and goals by Matthew Loades and Davie Thompson made it 3-3 at the end of normal time. Extra time could not produce a winner and the match went to penalties.

Nathan Francis, Matt Ashman and Davie Thompson converted their spot-kicks while Walpole missed three times as Witchford booked their place in the quarter-finals.

Rumbles stirs up Christmas spirit

» **ANGLING**

BRIAN Rumbles had plenty of festive cheer as he won the Christmas match at Westside Farm. The victor plundered the Whittlesford venue's Lake Two to the tune of 33lb 8oz by fishing round the back of the island on corn. Runner-up Simon Easey took 21-7, also from Lake Two, while third-placed Darren Spendif had three carp, including Rusty, for 19-6 on Lake One.

■ MARCUS Bailey compiled the biggest catch of the day and helped Blue Boys maintain their lead at the top of Headfen Lakes Fishery's teams of four winter league.

He captured 33 carp totalling 60lb 6oz with the aid of maggots on Snake Lake, finishing ahead of Shipshape Tackle's Brian Lee, who took 47-8 at the Little Downham venue. Trevor Oakman fished to the island on Trev's Lake with a method feeder and reeled in carp to 6lb for 51-11, while the table-toppers' Steve Jackson hooked 39-3.

Details – Snake Lake: 1 Marcus Bailey (Blue Boys) 60lb 6oz, 2 Brian Lee (Shipshape Tackle) 47-8. Trev's Lake: 1 Trevor Oakman (Westside Baggers) 51-11, 2 Steve Jackson (Blue Boys) 39-3. Teams: 1 Shipshape Tackle 12pts, 2 Blue Boys and Westside Baggers 13. Standings: 1 Blue Boys 6pts, 2 Westside Baggers 9, 3 Suffolk's Finest 14.

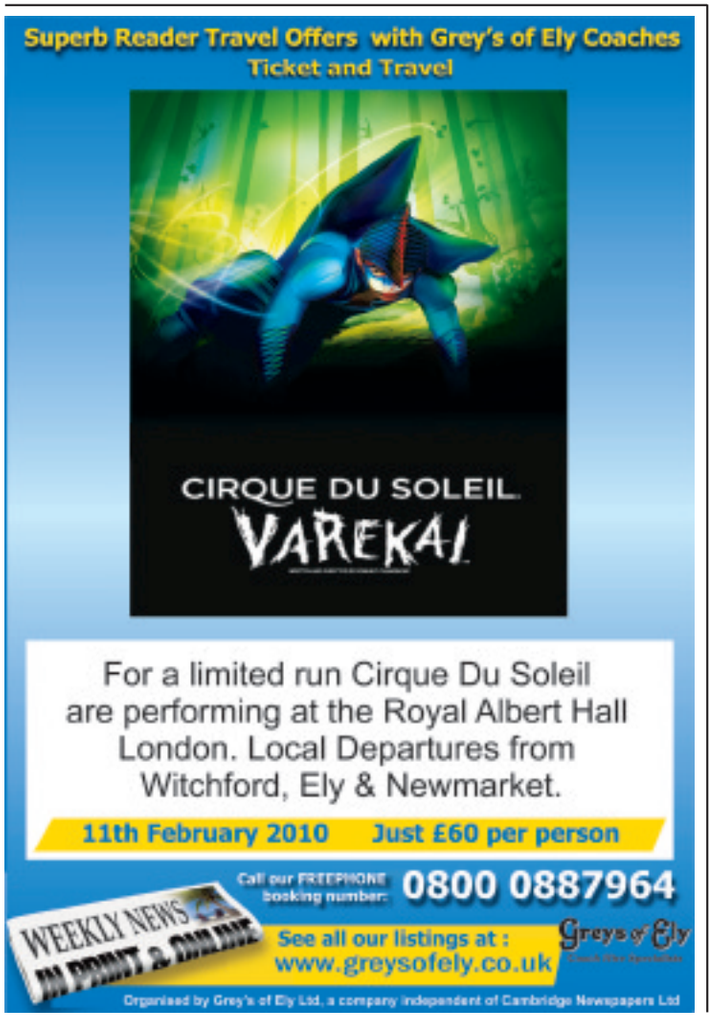
■ JOHN Buckingham got his hands on 50lb of carp with the help of a feeder and meat to take top spot in Saturday's open clash at High Flyer Lake. Second-placed John Leedl had 42lb at the Ely complex, while Fred Nixon amassed 45lb to win the Sunday encounter.

Details – Saturday: 1 John Buckingham (Wisbech) 50lb, 2 John Leedl (Downham Market) 42lb, 3 Ken Gammon (High Flyer) 28lb. Sunday: 1 Fred Nixon (High Flyer) 45lb, 2 Nigel Hargraves 43lb, 3 Ken Gammon (High Flyer) 35lb.

Another loss for Ely

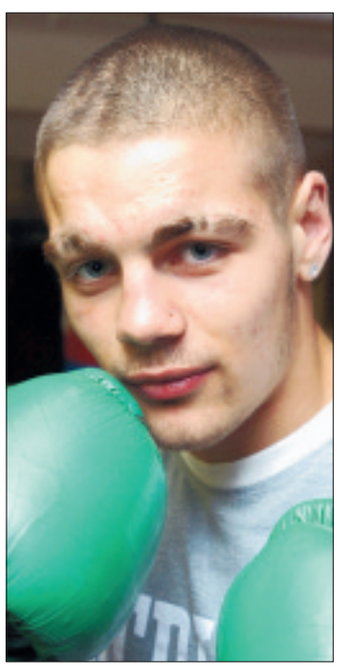
» **RUGBY UNION**

MARK Mitzman's Ely slumped to another defeat in Eastern Counties One on Saturday when they lost 15-8 at home to Woodbridge.



» **BOXING**

Goodjohn will not fall Fowl



TYLER Goodjohn could go a long way to living up to his billing as an Olympic prospect if he beats Anthony Fowler at a show in Derby tonight.

The Haddenham fighter (pictured left) was selected to join the Lloyds TSB Local Heroes scheme aimed at helping potential stars of London 2012 earlier this year.

And the former Junior ABA champion may give the powers that be a nudge if he can overcome the highly-rated Fowler from Liverpool's Golden Gloves ABC.

It is Fowler's first season in the senior ranks, but his record as a youngster speaks for itself.

He has won the Junior Four/Tri Nations and Junior ABA title four times at various weights as well as being England captain at the recent European Youth Championships in the summer, going out in the quarter-finals at under-69kg.

Goodjohn goes into the duel on the back of a surprise defeat to Hove ABC's Lloyd Elliott at DC Academy's show last Sunday. But coach Mike Sawyer was unhappy with that decision and believes Goodjohn will make the most of his chance against Fowler. He said: "Tyler won the first round last week and I thought he was going to stop him in the second. It was a disappointing decision and Tyler was really hacked off, but we've now got a bout coming up that we've wanted for the last couple of years."

That stems from the decision of England selectors to pick Fowler over Goodjohn for the under-70kg berth at last year's Junior Tri Nations Championships.

The Haddenham boxer had won the Junior ABA crown at that weight, while Fowler had clinched the under-66kg title.

With no under-66kg category in the Tri Nations, the Liverpudlian controversially got the nod to fight at the bigger weight. Sawyer said: "It used to be that when you won a national title you boxed for England. Now it seems you can win something and not get selected."

Ficarra considers his future after defence

» MARTIAL ARTS

NATO Ficarra is considering retirement after winning his third European Karate title in Milan.

The 42 year old once again defied his younger opponents to retain the championship he won in convincing style last year.

His previous European title came way back in 1992.

"I've won the title three times now and feel like I've done my bit," he said.

"It's funny to think I'm 42 years old and still the best in Europe. I'm going to take the next month to decide whether to retire."

Ficarra, who lives in Ely, may be bruised and battered after a gruelling competition but his determination to win again saw him through some tough bouts.

The final, against a Spanish opponent, was a relatively straight forward affair but after several rounds of intense competition, that was just what he needed.

"I went into the final thinking that I had about 45sec in me where I could really go for it," he said.

"After 18sec the fight was stopped because the Spaniard could no longer continue." He added: "I've got cuts and bruises, a black eye and I lost a tooth but it's been worth it."

Clock is ticking: Nato Ficarra is thinking about retirement Picture: Duncan Lamont SPO 617098

Ficarra went into the competition inspired by daughters Daniella and Victoria, and it was that motivation that saw him through a tricky encounter against a 24-year-old French opponent in the quarter-final. Ficarra was floored by a strong punch to the mouth and, dazed and confused, could barely continue. But he somehow managed to steady himself and launched a stinging counter-attack on his rival to win the contest by two points.

"It was a tough fight but I managed to use all my strength and experience to get through," he said.

Ficarra, who trained for the event at Paradise Sport Centre, Ely, also thanked his fans for their support.

"People in the town have been very supportive," he said.

"They've been great."

» ATHLETICS

Ellwood has Ely on rise

ELY Runners' junior team have edged up another place to ninth overall at the half-way stage of the Frostbite Friendly Winter cross-country league.

Ely put in a solid team performance in race three at Hinchingbrooke Park, Huntingdon to finish seventh of the 13 teams competing, with 233 points.

Alexander Ellwood was the first Ely Runner home in 33rd, followed by Nathan Pennington in 41st, debutants Fraser Crossman 43rd and Dylan Campbell 56th, and Esme Wright 60th and Mollie Butler in 74th.

Coach Alan Rutterford was pleased with their performances and praised Butler for carrying on despite being in severe pain with stitch.

» NETBALL

Child's play for shooters

SHOOTER Katie Child and Jenny Tovey were in top form to guide Ely to a 61-23 disposal of Hampton in their latest County League match.

The shooters were fed quality ball and duly delivered a comfortable victory.

Ely II also finished 2009 in winning fashion with a 33-28 defeat of Over.

Jennie Wallace was impressive in attack as Ely forged a five-goal half-time advantage and their defence held firm in the second half to see off their rivals.

» SPEEDWAY

Laurence takes Hart as Fen Tigers sign Jerran

NICK Laurence believes the signing of top man Jerran Hart will help him improve as a rider and turn Mildenhall into National League title contenders.

The 19 year old from Eastbourne seized his chance to stake a permanent team place in mid-July and never looked back, averaging 3.49 over 14 appearances to make one of the reserve berths his own.

"I really enjoyed the end of last season," he said, "and I am certainly looking forward to next year already. I came to Mildenhall just to do a few rides as a No 8 and then I got my opportunity when a rider was injured.

"It took two or three meetings to get the right set-up and engines, but then everything went fine.

"It's a nice circuit to ride, the last three meetings the track was a bit inconsistent but that was down to the weather changes."

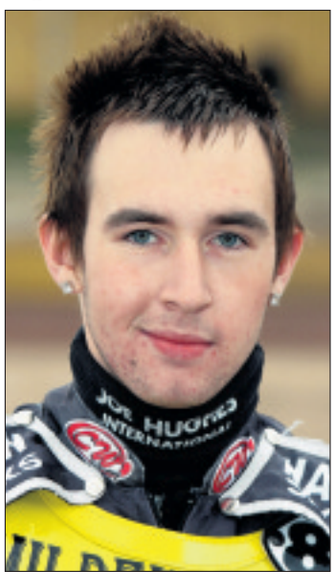
Having struck a permanent deal with the Fen Tigers, the teenager will be making his first full-season foray into the sport alongside friend Joe Jacobs in the reserve positions.

"I get on well with Joe outside of the sport," he said. "As a rider he races safe and I am sure we will make a strong reserve partnership.

"The whole team is looking strong and we should be up there challenging for trophies.

"Jerran coming is a big boost. As he is younger than me, he will make me want to strive on to do better as a rider.

"It was the first time I had a chance to chat with him at the club's Christmas party on Sunday and he is a great lad with his head well focused.



Nick Laurence: 'The team is looking strong and should be up there challenging for trophies'

"I've stripped my bike down ready for next year. It was new last year, so I won't be making any big changes, I'll just get some items in from Poland like a new cover, kevlars and bearings. My sponsor Joe Hughes helps me out a lot.

"I'll be aiming to put a point on my average, keep injury free and be consistent."

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WEEKLY NEWS SPORT

December 17, 2009 email: elysport@cambridge-news.co.uk

Nato ponders packing it in after title win

FULL REPORT IS ON PAGE 47

Gammon drives the stake home

» **FOOTBALL:** Zamaretto League

RICHARD Gammon scored his first goal for Soham to complete another successful comeback for Ian Benjamin's men.

Benjamin was without Andy Coleman, Dubi Ogbonna and Declan Napier, and Soham struggled to find any rhythm in the early stages as Stourport dominated.

The hosts finally got the breakthrough after 20 minutes but, from that moment, Rangers began to get into the game.

They got a deserved equaliser in the 30th minute when Scott Carter scored from the edge of the penalty area after good work down the right wing by Luke Hipwell and Callum Reed.

The visitors were now in control and they went ahead just before half time when Gammon finished off a good move down the left, scoring from close range after Andy Furnell's cross caused mayhem in the Stourport defence.

The home side piled on the pressure in the second half, but Rangers defended well and keeper Ian Pledger pulled off some good saves to preserve the lead.

"We had a depleted side, so it was a really good win under the circumstances," said Benjamin.

"We were down to the bare bones. We'd like to score the first goal, but at the moment we're showing character in coming back.

"The lads keep going until the end, and hopefully we're looking harder to beat now than we were a few weeks ago."

Soham welcome Leighton to Julius Martin Lane on Saturday.

» **FOOTBALL:** Ridgeons League

Pacey rock solid

Ely 0 Walsham-le-Willows
PREMIER DIVISION

DEFENCES remained on top in a well-contested match that saw more goalmouth action than the score might suggest.

Keepers at both ends were called into action on several occasions, with City's Lee Pacey making a number of fine saves to earn his side a point.

Simon Warren had the best chances for the hosts, who were again without striker Robbie Mason. But on both occasions he failed to hit the target.

City boss Dennis Lightning said: "It was a good game and the action went from end to end.

"It could have gone either way, so it's a fair result for everyone and I'm happy with a point.

"On another day Simon would have converted the chances he had but, to be fair, they had a couple of chances as well.

"We played well as a team, kept our unbeaten run in the league going and kept another clean sheet, which is pleasing."

Lightning will be looking for his front men to get their names on the scoresheet on Saturday when they make the journey across to the Suffolk coast to face Felixstowe & Walton for a league clash.

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Indian Takeaway

FREE HOME DELIVERY
(Orders over £6 Littleport, Little Downham, ELY up to 10 mile radius)
01353 – 86 26 36

4 course meal £6.99 -
Prawn Crackers
Pilau Rice
Onion Bhajee
Any main dish
(Excludes specialty & Biryani)

Closed Mondays
6 Main Street, Littleport, Ely

Indian Garden Restaurant

"Merry Christmas to all our customers"

5 Course Meal from our menu £12 available in our Restaurant every Wednesday

20% off takeaway orders over £20

13 Victoria Street, Littleport, Cambs CB6 1LU
www.indiagarden.co.uk
Tel: (01353) 863656